

she had perfect confidence in her, frankly acknowledged the cause.

"My dear George," she said, "you know that in your father's time I made it a rule to occupy myself only with the affairs of the household. I was told nothing, and I wished to know nothing, otherwise I might have been compelled to express myself in a manner which my dependent position and my respect for my uncle forbade. If there is really any mystery there is only one person here who can solve it."

"Who is that, Katrina?"

"Trigant, who was the confidant of M. de Varigny, and who certainly holds the key of many secrets."

"I don't like Trigant," George replied; "and I am very unwilling to apply to him."

"I don't like him either; he is a sinister-looking man, and I am afraid of him. Although, since my uncle's death, he has shown himself polite, it is impossible to forget how brutal and coarse he used to be formerly. My uncle himself always spoke to him with a kind of deference. I repeat, Trigant, come, present in acquaintance with certain shady affairs which probably concern us."

"Shady! You say truly, my dear Katrina," replied George, despondently. "I have already discovered in my father's affairs many infamous transactions, but I dread to discover still greater ones. I hardly dare to continue my researches. One consideration alone encourages me to pursue this task. When my father charged me to bring me back to him he showed great impatience to see me. My theory is that on his death-bed he repented his past acts, and wished me (whose opinion on certain questions he was well acquainted with) to undertake to repair them as far as possible."

"This seems very probable, cousin George. Your father was not bad at heart, if he had not possessed that unfortunate lust for gold which ruled and blinded him."

"For this reason I will go on to the bitter end," replied Varigny, resolutely; "it would be cowardly to draw back. My good little Cinderella, be sure you keep silence on all this. I will endeavour to find out what I want to know without having recourse to Trigant; but if I am compelled to address him, I will prove that I am in no way afraid of him."

His determination being taken, George set to work at once. He touched a bell and a young man of fifteen or sixteen, whom he had taken into his service quite recently, and who perfectly worshipped him, appeared immediately.

George ordered him to send up the porter and his wife. Five minutes later Jane and Peter entered their appearance. The man had a willow look, Jane an uneasy and embarrassed appearance.

"Listen, both of you," said George in a severe tone. "I don't know whether you served my father faithfully or not; but times have changed, and I intend to serve only on my own fashion. You had better, then, answer truly what I am going to ask you; if not, you will have reason to repent it."

This opening remark alarmed the man and his wife, who exchanged looks. Jane replied humbly:

"You are the master now, M. George, and we will do as you wish."

"Very well. I desire to know certain details of the life led by M. Trigant. Although by my father's wish this man still occupies the building at the end of the yard, I have a right to know what takes place in his house. When he goes out does he ever leave his key in the lodge?"

"Never," replied the man and his wife spontaneously.

"Therefore, you never enter his rooms?"

"He looks after his own household himself," replied Jane, "and he has his meals in an eating-house in the Faubourg Montmartre. Once a week only he requests me to clean his apartment, but he is always present when this is being done."

"Does he go out much? Does he come in late?"

"He is often absent in the day time. On the other hand, he is always at home by eight or nine at night, and does not go out again."

"Is it not possible for him to go in and out by means of the door which opens on to the *cul-de-sac* called 'Whistle-alley'?"

"This question seemed to disconcert the married couple."

Jane replied: "The door has been of no use for a long time. I do not mean to say that it is absolutely impossible to enter or go out by it; but it would be necessary to go through an old lumber room almost in ruins. In this place there has accumulated an immense quantity of rubbish, and to go through it one would be covered with dust, besides running a good risk of breaking one's back."

"Have you the key of this door?" said George.

"No, sir, M. Trigant has it."

"I do not choose that any one should have the power of entering my premises without my knowing it. Now listen, and reflect well before answering. You, who know the remotest corners of the house, have you never remarked in Trigant's pavilion a door leading into a dark closet, or, perhaps, a large cabinet, or cupboard, hidden in the wall where one might hide objects of some size?"

"At this question George and Jane exhibited a surprise which was in no way simulated."

"Never," said the portress, "have I ever noticed anything of the kind at M. Trigant's, and yet I go over every part when I do the cleaning. All the cupboards and cabinets are open, and there is certainly no appearance of anything of value."

These replies appearing sincere, and George, not being able to extract anything useful from the man and his wife, was about to dismiss them, when he thought of asking:

"I sometimes hear, rather late at night, the sound of a bell, which seems to proceed from M. Trigant's abode; has he by chance a special bell of his own?"

Jane made a movement and anxiously looked at her husband, who, notwithstanding his dull appearance, replied sharply:

"No, no, sir; this bell belongs to the midwife, our neighbour at No. 7. In the day time one does not hear it in consequence of the noise in the street; but at night, when the roll of the carriages is not heard—"

"Enough, you may go. Not a word to a living soul of what I have just said, especially to Trigant. Remember my words: I mean to be master here, and at the smallest indiscretion on your part."

The man and his wife left the room, and whilst going down stairs began to whisper together, evidently much disconcerted.

Notwithstanding the negative results of this inquiry, George de Varigny did not lose any of his suspicions.

"Yes," he thought, "I am on the trace of some guilty mystery. My unfortunate father was not only a miser, his mad love of gold must have dragged him still lower. This Trigant, for whom he showed so much consideration, could only have been employed in some dishonourable work; I must get to the bottom of it all!"

CHAPTER XII.

"WHISTLE-ALLEY."

In order to understand what follows, it is necessary to enter into a few topographical details with regard to the surroundings of Varigny's abode.

This house faced the Rue Lamartine, formerly called Rue Coquenard, but the back looked upon a kind of passage, called Whistle-alley, which no longer exists, although the traces of it are still apparent. This *cul-de-sac* was dark and dirty, in fact a kind of thieves' sanctuary, where the police had very limited control, and where little attention was paid either to cleanliness or lighting. Very few strangers entered it, and its inhabitants were of one or two shops occupied by dealers in old iron and a stray cobbler, there was nothing to be seen but some old buildings, several of which had their fronts in a street at the rear, and only their back entrances in the alley.

The evening of the day on which he had received M. Noblin's visit, George stole stealthily towards Whistle-alley. Without attempting to disguise himself in any way, he had put

on an ordinary suit of dark clothes. A long overcoat buttoned up to the throat, and a soft felt hat pulled down over his eyes, rendered him unrecognisable. Dressed in this manner, he began to walk up and down, so as to excite as little attention as possible.

This was easy enough, for just at this time of the evening people were seldom to be met with, very few of the houses were lit up, and a single gas lamp at each end of the alley left many dark gaps. Had it not been for the continued rumble of the neighbouring streets and the voices of two or three drunkards singing in a hoarse voice in a low wine-shop, one might have fancied oneself far away from Paris.

Although born in the house of which he was now the master, George knew very little of this alley. When a child, he had been brought up by his mother, who seemed to have a horror of the ill-famed locality, and never allowed him to enter it. Later on he had gone to a boarding school, and had not been much at home. In fact, nothing had occurred up to this time to call his attention to this part of the neighbourhood, and he had only looked casually at it in passing.

It was not difficult, however, to recognise the entrance to the pavilion. It was a large and massive folding door, surmounted by a grating archway; the other openings in the side of the house had long ago been bricked up. In former times it had evidently served as an entrance to a storehouse which had been afterwards abandoned, and George, who knew how anxious his father was to make money out of everything, could not understand why he had forfeited the rent which he might have received for it. The door was still solid and close-fitting, but its rusty lock and hinges and the mouldy appearance of the all made one imagine that it was only opened at very rare intervals.

George wondered to himself whether the ground floor of this building could be looked upon as forming part of Trigant's abode. His father's will was silent on this point, and it seemed to him to be a disputable question which might be raised between himself and his father's old employer. But, whether or no, he was much puzzled as to what this part of the building could be used for. For some time he paced up and down the alley, hiding himself at the slightest noise. What was he waiting for? He himself would have been unable to say. However an undefined instinct seemed to warn him that he was about to make some interesting discovery.

Ten o'clock struck, and the alley became still more deserted. The various stalls were shut up, several of the frequenters of the wine-shops had gone reeling home, whilst others slept with their heads on the tables. A fine icy rain had commenced to fall, and George, his teeth chattering with cold, began to think of going home, when he saw a dark form glide along the wall, and come straight towards him. This shadow had not the proverbial lightness of a ghost, for although it endeavoured to walk gently, the sound of heavy footsteps could be heard on the pavement.

George hid himself in the recess of the door and remained motionless. The stranger approached cautiously without seeing him, stopped before the house, and raised his arm as if to knock or ring, although there was neither knocker nor bell-pull to be seen. All at once he became aware of the presence of the young man crouching in the shadow; he then turned on his heel and continued his walk to the extremity of the alley.

He did not go far, however, but soon retraced his steps. George did not move, but by the light of the gas tried to recognise the nocturnal prowler. He was a man of villainous appearance, dressed almost in rags, and he seemed to be hiding a small parcel under his coat.

The man, in his turn, cast a penetrating look at George de Varigny. Probably he wanted to assure himself that the stranger had nothing to do with the police. George's youth and open demeanour soon reassured him on this point.

"Hello, youngster," he said, in a low tone of voice. "Are you also on the same errand? Well! It is ten o'clock, and you can go in."

In his keen anxiety to ascertain what was going on in this part of the house, George did not move, and replied with much presence of mind:

"Yes, I come—no doubt like you—but I am rather green, and I don't know how to go about it."

"New at it! Well, that's a good one. Still, you must have been told the secret of getting into the den."

Certainly I have. Nevertheless, I cannot quite make it out, and I am unable to find—"

"What? You can't find the head of the nail which serves as the bell-pull? The sixth to the right. There is no mistake about it when you once know the trick."

While speaking he pointed to the door, the whole surface of which was covered with large nails with square-shaped heads.

"Here, this is the one," he continued, placing his hand on one of them, which exactly resembled the others; "you must press pretty hard. You doubtless know how many times you should push it."

"Yes," replied George, who now remembered the mysterious bell he had so often heard in his house; "first of all three sharp strokes, and then, after a time, two others."

"That's it, the time to count twenty between the third and fourth. You certainly know all about the machinery. Look here," he said, lowering his voice and winking, "what are you bringing to the shop, eh? Let's have a look."

George pretended to mistrust him.

"You will see in good time," he replied.

"The other best out laughing," he replied. "Ah! but not so bad little one," he replied. "You are wrong, however, to mistrust me. Dog does not eat dog. Come, you can go in, there is no time to lose."

"Why don't you go first?"

"Well, now to think this greenhorn should give himself such airs!" replied the man, not, however, without feeling somewhat flattered at the suspicion he had aroused; "as you wish it, why should we not both go in together; this is my first visit to the shop, and one must be up to a hundred dodges. I'll pilot you in. To tell you the truth," he added in a confidential tone of voice, "I don't know exactly how I shall be received. Not long ago I had a little affair with the other, the boss, who cheated me, and the old clerk tried to strangle me when I ventured into his rat-trap. But when one has 'stuff' to place, and nowhere to place it, what is one to do? Well, is it settled? Shall we go in?"

This proposal suited George exactly. He thought he would be certain to ascertain by this means what mysterious transactions were being carried on in his own house. It is true that a conflict with his suspicious companion; but he had plenty of courage, and in the event of a struggle his height and strength would give him considerable advantage. He pretended, however, to agree to the suggestion with reluctance.

"I don't quite like your proposal; every one should look after his own affairs. However, not to offend you, let us go whilst you conclude your bargain with the man. By this means I shall see how things go."

His companion laughed quietly.

"Well, well, youngster," he replied; "don't be huffy. We must know each other better. However, let it be as you wish," he added carelessly. "I fear no one, after all, and if the other one shows his teeth, I know how to meet him. You will learn your apprenticeship by watching what I do. Now then, come on!"

He placed his hand on the secret spring and pressed it quickly three times. No sound was heard outside, but the stranger knew probably that this would be the case, and he began to count in a low tone from one to twenty. Then he pressed twice again on the spring and waited.

The door did not open and everything was quiet inside. George's new acquaintance said with some uneasiness: "Damnation! can it be possible that things are changed since the master kicked the bucket?"

He was interrupted by a harsh creaking sound.

The door had been opened by one of those pulley ropes which are used by Parisian police. The stranger, however, to some force to open it sufficiently, for it still offered a certain amount of resistance. He passed through and drew his companion after him, and the door, no doubt, controlled by heavy counter-weights, shut itself behind them.

George tried to make out where he was, but the darkness was too great for him to do so, although at the end of the warehouse a vague light could be seen reflected on the ceiling. The part he was in was filled with half-broken furniture, planks and empty barrels, through which it seemed difficult to find way. George put out his arms to save himself from knocking up against anything in the darkness, and came in contact with the rough surface of the wall, which was covered with dust and spiders' webs.

His companion, who seemed to know the ins and outs of the place very well, said in a low voice: "Take hold of the tail of my coat, and walk behind me; I will lead you right."

George obeyed, and his guide took numberless turns through all kinds of obstacles, which only left room for one person to pass at a time.

At length they reached the end of the warehouse, and could now see from whence proceeded the reflected light which shone on the accumulation of rubbish. In front of them was an enclosure made of thick oaken planks, and bars of iron very similar to those seen in certain bank offices and in some prisons. For greater safety the bars were strengthened by a thick trellis-work. Behind this lattice-work were placed a lamp, the shade of which was so low that the light only made the darkness more visible.

George had, in the meantime, caught sight of a man standing motionless near the lamp, and he hastened to hide himself behind a heap of empty barrels, whilst his companion advanced alone towards the barrier.

The harsh voice of Trigant was now heard on the other side of the trellis-work.

"Who the devil is that?" he asked.

"Fiddler Wink," replied the visitor.

It so happened that the initiated were expected to know, for Trigant rejoined:

"This well. Come forward, let us have a look at you, and see what you have brought."

A small wicket was opened, and the lamp, suddenly lifted up, threw forth a brilliant light which fell on the new arrival.

The effect of this examination was not long in showing itself. Trigant called out in a furious tone of voice:

"What! You scoundrel, 'Fried Fish' are you here again? After having taken place do you dare to come back? Now then, cut your stick. You know I am armed. Get out, I say! The best I can do for you is to let you go!"

"Fried Fish," who had obtained this nickname from the appearance of his face, which had a brown and fried appearance, did not budge.

"Come, come, Mister Clerk," he replied, humbly; "do not be put out. What is passed is passed. You know we can't do without each other. A scurvy trick was played on me, by paying an imitation jewellery what was really right stuff. As for myself, I am as much as gunpowder, in my hand, and I took it. If the business turned out ill it was not my fault. You must really have some conscience, you know. Just look now what I have to offer. Ah! it is all, and no mistake, and you will not have to reproach me for offering you anything 'duffing'."

While speaking "Fried Fish" drew from beneath his ragged coat a large leather case, which he opened. It contained a diamond necklace, the precious stones of which, notwithstanding the darkness, shone with wonderful brilliancy.

Doubtless Trigant, from behind his grating, perceived the nature of the gems, for he exclaimed:

"Well! I'll bet it is the diamond necklace which has been stolen within the last few days from a jeweller in the Palais Royal, and concerning which all the newspapers are talking. Scoundrel, it was you, then, who did the trick. But I am not going to purchase anything so well known as this; it would be impossible to get rid of even a single stone without running the risk of being nabbed. Besides, I have already told you I have no intention of having any further dealings with you. Keep your diamonds, and show me your bare."

"Come, my dear sir," replied "Fried Fish," in a supplicating tone of voice, "don't be so hard. You shall have it for a thousand francs. No! Well, take it for five hundred. It is a real bargain. One must live, you know, and one has nothing but one's profession to exist on."

"Yes," said Trigant, "and if I accepted your proposal, one of these fine days you would play me in some out-of-the-way place as you did in the same manner as you treated a certain person of our acquaintance. Now, out with you, I'll have no truck with you."

George shuddered with horror. For some time he had suspected that "Fried Fish" was his father's murderer, and those last words of Trigant left him in no doubt upon the subject.

In a transport of indignation he raised his fist above the scoundrel's head and felt capable of felling him with a single blow. Reflection and an effort of self-restraint, however, prevented him from doing this; he remembered that his father and save his name from dishonour. He allowed his hand to fall by his side, and became once more motionless.

"Fried Fish" had no idea of the danger he had escaped. Impatient to bring his bargain to a conclusion, he forgot George's presence altogether.

"Damnation!" he cried. "What do you really want? If I have smashed the other, have you not been the gainer by it? You were formerly only a clerk, and now you are the master! Look here, I may take the necklace for a hundred francs. Every one says it is worth fifty thousand! And we will remain good friends. May I be hanged if we don't!"

Trigant was sorely tempted to obtain for a mere song the magnificent jewels, which represented a small fortune. Nevertheless, he replied brutally:

"Nothing. Not a son. Die of hunger, if you will, or, better still, eat your diamonds, and may they choke you!"

The thief was thoroughly exasperated; his eyes shone in the darkness like those of a wild cat.

"Ah! then take that!" he said, grinding his teeth; "then take that!"

The little wicket which was placed in the trellis-work was just large enough for a man's hand and arm to enter, and during the preceding conversation, Trigant, in perfect confidence with regard to his personal safety, had leaned against the shelf which was attached to the opening. Suddenly a knife had glittered in "Fried Fish's" hand, and Trigant received the thrust before he could move.

Not being prepared for the attack made on him, he had been unable to resist, and the knife had penetrated still further had he not two powerful hands seized the ruffian by the shoulders and drawn him violently backward.

Trigant, feeling himself wounded, uttered an awful oath, and retreated to the extremity of the den which served as an office. He sat down on the first steps of the little staircase which led to the upper storey, and began to staunch the blood which flowed from his wound.

During this time George and "Fried Fish" were struggling in the darkness, George trying to disarm his adversary, who, whilst grinding his teeth, exclaimed:

"Hullo! So you turn against your pal, do you! What are you interfering for, youngster? Are you a detective? I owed this skunk something. If one did not pay these gentry their due occasionally business would go to the dogs. Now then, are you going to let me alone?"

"I won't do you any harm," replied George, firmly; "but you must let me have your knife and get out of this as quickly as you can. As for the rest, we will see about that later on, and you shall not lose anything by waiting."

"My knife! Very likely, indeed! It is my only friend! Once more, why do you interfere?"

The struggle became more and more unequal. In addition to the fact that George de Varigny was

the stronger of the two, he had the advantage of position over his adversary, and held the mastery which the other vainly endeavoured to overcome. Notwithstanding the pain caused by his wound, Trigant started up and called out anxiously:

"Who is there? Good heavens! Are there two of them?"

"It is me, Trigant," replied George de Varigny in a loud tone, no longer desiring to conceal himself. "We shall have to talk to each other later on. Meanwhile, help me to turn out this scoundrel."

Trigant's surprise made him forget everything, even his suffering.

"You, Monsieur George!" he replied; "who would have thought it! How did it come about? I am wounded and unable to assist you. Don't spare the rascal. Here is a revolver; kill him. 'Twas he who murdered your father!'"

"I know it," replied de Varigny in a gloomy voice, "but the day of his punishment is not yet arrived; it will soon come, however. For the present I only wish to get him out of this place."

At least, take this weapon.

And, leaning against the trellis-work, Trigant handed him a revolver through the wicket.

George hardly required it. He had succeeded—not without receiving a few cuts on his fingers—in securing "Fried Fish's" knife, who, feeling unable to continue the struggle, contented himself with remaining on the defensive.

"Well, you are acquainted, are you," he grumbled, "and seem to be in the same boat, too. As there appears to be no chance of doing business in this den, I'm off. Hand me over my knife, my young friend."

"Here's the price of it," replied de Varigny, taking some loose silver from his pocket and putting it on the shelf. "Now then, be off. You heard what was said just now. Don't drive me too far, or by heavens I'll put a bullet through you!"

While "Fried Fish" seized on the money, George slipped the knife into his pocket, and presenting the revolver at the thief, said: "Walk on ahead of me. I am going to conduct you as far as the street; and recollect, that if on the way you turn round or make the least suspicious movement, I will press the trigger and blow out your brains. Trigant, pull the cord, so that this man may go out."

"Yes, sir," replied Trigant eagerly.

The harsh sound of the opening door could be heard, and the robber started off without further resistance.

"Well, well, he's a stiff youngster," he growled. Thanks to the respect due to superior physical strength, the thief walked quickly along the passage in the middle of the old packing-cases and empty barrels. George followed behind, revolver in hand, and in this way they reached the door, which was now ajar. "Fried Fish" pulled it towards him with an effort, and it was only when he had passed outside that he stopped and turned round.

George, without saying a word, placed the barrel of the pistol to his forehead.

"Bah! don't let us fall out!" the thief said humbly. "You are the son of the house, I perceive, and I understand that we cannot be parted. But you have given me money, and therefore this belongs to you. Besides, it would be dangerous for me to keep it."

At the same time he held out to de Varigny the leather case containing the diamonds.

"I have nothing to do with stolen goods!" replied George, and he pushed away the case, which fell and broke to pieces on the ground.

By the light of the gas the diamonds, which had fallen on the greasy pavement, shone brilliantly. George brushed them away with his foot, and entering the building, pushed to the door, which closed itself.

He fancied he heard "Fried Fish" still addressing him from the outside, but he paid no attention, and once more commenced his journey through the labyrinth of rubbish.

Profiting by his former experience, he was not long in finding himself in front of the wicket.

The lamp was still burning inside, and although suffering intensely from his wound, Trigant came forward and opened a little narrow door in the trellis-work, which served as a means of communication between the office and the warehouse.

George passed through, and while still retaining his revolver, began to examine the place in which he found himself.

It was a small den containing only a miserable looking chair and an iron safe, the latter no doubt for the purpose of guarding money or valuables. At the back, as already mentioned, there was a small staircase which led to the upper floor of the house.

Young de Varigny feared that Trigant, having recovered somewhat from the effect of the first surprise and unaided resistance, might possibly make some show of resistance. His fears were, however, groundless, for the old clerk, now quite exhausted, had returned to his position on the bottom step of the stairs, and was wiping away the blood which flowed from his wound.

He said, however, in a savage tone of voice: "Why did you let that scoundrel go, Monsieur George? Both in your own interest and in mine you should have killed him!"

"It is not here nor in this manner," replied George, "that he ought to receive his punishment. Don't let me think any more of the man at the present moment. I know now, M. Trigant, the abominable traffic in which this part of my house is employed, and I must have some serious explanations with you; but you are wounded; it is necessary, in the first place, to render you the assistance which your condition requires. We must go up to your room, to which, no doubt, this staircase leads, but as I do not intend to let my establishment shall any longer continue to be the receiving-house of the thieves and assassins of Paris, I must at once take certain precautions."

By means of "Fried Fish's" knife he cut the cord which communicated with the door, then he severed the wire which was attached to the bell so as to render all communications with the exterior impossible for the future. Trigant looked on and said with petulance:

"It was your father himself, Monsieur George, who devised all these safeguards. He fancied he had neglected nothing to ensure our safety, but he one cannot think of anything, and there are some scoundrels in the world. Still, what a fuss you make about a simple office for making advances on pledges!"

"An office for the purpose of making advances on pledges! Is this what you call a place where admission is only granted at certain hours of the night, and after the exchange of mysterious signs and counter-signs?"

"You may think what you like about it," replied Trigant, in a sullen tone of voice. "I have only continued the business of my former master. Moreover, you have been a witness that I do refuse certain transactions, and it was this refusal which exasperated that blackguard 'Fried Fish.' I am disposed to discontinue them altogether, and you only anticipate a resolution which I had already arrived at. Do not forget that my interests are so mixed up with those of your father, and, consequently, with yours, that it is impossible to separate them."

"I do not forget, otherwise— But once more this is not the time to discuss these matters. You are losing blood; let us hasten upstairs."

"Truly, I am suffering a good deal. I thought at first I had only received a scratch, and now I begin to feel something worse. Oh! Why did you not lodge a bullet in the scoundrel's head?"

George took the lamp in one hand; with the other he supported Trigant, who otherwise would not have been able to mount the stairs. In a few minutes they found themselves in the abode of the old clerk.

(To be continued).

Prejudice against preserved food has disappeared, and Libby's Condensed Corned Beef is now found all over the globe, being as great a boon to the soldiers in overcrowded cities, where living is expensive, as it is to the sailors on long voyages, and to the labourers of the Congo, or over the burning sands of Sahara. In 1, 2, 4, 6, and 10 lbs. Tins, of all sorts of groceries, Libby's Condensed Beef, and take no other. Ask any Grocer, who will give five per cent. charge. Libby's Cookery Book, containing practical recipes for preparation of Thinned Meats for Table use, (Libby's).

A YEAR'S BOILER EXPLOSIONS.

The secretary of the Board of Trade has issued his sixth report upon the working of the Boiler Explosions Act of 1882. From this it appears that the number of these explosions in the twelve months ended June 30th, 1888, was sixty-one—a large number than has been recorded since the Act came into force. The mortality, however, from accidents of the kind was not so great, as the loss of thirty-one lives compares favourably with that of 1885-6, when forty lives were lost in forty-three explosions. In eighteen of the cases there had to be inquired into the boilers were on board vessels, and in three of these they were used for hoisting trawls. There is reason to believe, says Mr. Thomas

OUR OMNIBUS.

THE M.P.

There is one quality in which the Separatists entirely surpass the Unionists; that is, in their inactivity. Even the most inventive of the latter would hesitate before he stated that Mr. John Morley had deserted Home Rule. But the Gladstonians have not scrupled, it appears, to spread about the monstrous fabrication that Lord Derby has come over to them. It was really unnecessary for his lordship to contradict this astounding fib; he will come over to Home Rule about the time that the Pope of Rome comes over to Protestantism or that Sir William Harcourt learns to blush.

The Parnell Defence Fund now amounts to over £20,000. I wonder how much of the amount came from America? Mr. Patrick Ford does not ostensibly take any part in sending round the hat on this occasion, but that astute gentleman knows how to work a subscription list on the quiet. Query: Should Mr. Parnell win his civil suit in Scotland against the Times, and get the £20,000 damages he asks for, what would he do with the money? It ought to be divided among the subscribers to the Defence Fund, but I doubt whether it would be.

Father McFadden is a brother of a boy, no doubt, but he should really try to stick to the truth while he is on this side of St. George's Channel. It may not matter on the other side; the Irish people appear to possess an extraordinary faculty for digesting lies. A lie it was, and nothing less, when Father McFadden told a Liverpool audience that the Government were lending the Irish people five millions of money against "their constitutional expressed wish." The Irish people have never even been consulted on the general question, but their real opinion may be guessed that they quickly borrowed the five millions thrown open to them by Lord Ashbourne's Act and asked for more. That does not look like a refusal.

Two members of a Radical Home Rule Club held hot controversy the other day as to whether Mr. Labouchere or Mr. Bradlaugh should be given the higher post in Mr. Gladstone's next Ministry. Claim was balanced against claim, the dispute becoming every moment more heated, until the Bradlaughite played his trump card. "Say what you like about Mr. Labouchere," he shouted, "but he never had the courage to publish 'The Fruits of Philosophy.' He has beaten that hollow," exclaimed the other disputant, "does he not publish Truth every week?" The Bradlaughite slunk away utterly vanquished.

An eccentric member has suggested a compromise on the burning question of payment of members. His plan is that the State should provide a large, comfortable, well-furnished barrack near the House of Commons, in which there would be a sleeping apartment for every member who cared to avail himself of the privilege, with reception and refreshment-rooms common to all. The State would further pay for the ration of meat and drink within reasonable limits, Irish members to be allowed an extra quantity of whisky and potatoes. It is argued that an arrangement of this sort would come a great deal cheaper than paying regular salaries, as none but the really necessitous would take up residence in the barrack.

An interesting question arises as to whether Sir William Harcourt has a legal right to sit in the House of Commons. Some years ago he claimed near kinship with the Royal family—I forget in what degree, but that does not matter. The question is, therefore, whether any scion of Royalty who has not been raised to the peerage has a right to represent a constituency in the Commons. Such a case has never arisen before, there being no instance of a British prince closely connected with the reigning family becoming a member of Parliament.

There are few things more amusing than the contrast between what Separatist journalists say among themselves and the stuff they foist off on their readers. Take, for instance, that dreary, illogical, inconsequent speech, Mr. Gladstone's harangue on the Ashbourne Act Extension Bill. Some Home Rule papers landed it to the skies next day as an every-day admirable performance, but the very gentlemen who wrote this rubbish privately expressed their bitter disappointment.

Mr. Balfour has committed another heinous sin by going out for an airing in "an open carriage." What was this but an open mockery of the poor Irish peasant? That virtuous creature has to pay taxes, and Mr. Balfour's salary comes out of the proceeds of taxation. Therefore, the Irish Secretary's airing was purchased at the cost of Erin's starving children. Ooh, whirrroo! Won't some bobby be after treading on the tail of his coat?

I venture to predict that Mr. Conyngham and Mr. Cunningham Graham will not hunt in couples much longer. The rivalry between them in notoriety-seeking is becoming keener and keener, and I have noticed that when one catches the Speaker's eye the other glowers like a dragon with a sore tail. They are amusing cusses so long as they do not play the fool at undue length; it would be a pity, therefore, were they to copy Republican customs in France by fighting a duel. However, there is little fear of that. Mr. Graham might be willing to flourish "my father's word," but Mr. Conyngham is too much of a philosopher to wish any other fighting than that between the police and a Trafalgar-square mob.

Mr. Hanbury, the member for Preston, is supposed to be a Conservative. He won his seat in that character, and he therefore owes allegiance to the Government. His notion of fulfilling this obligation is curious, to say the least. It consists in seeking every opportunity to embarrass and damage the Ministry. Mr. Hanbury is, fortunately, beyond the suspicion of playing for place, or evil-minded people might fix that stigma upon him.

WILLIAM OF CLOUDESLEE.

An objection was laid on Tuesday against Abeyance, winner of the last flat race of the season. The race was run at Manchester at 3.50, and the objection was not lodged within twenty-four hours. For some irregularity fourteen days are allowed for lodging an objection. In other races only twenty-four hours are allowed. On the facts of the business Abeyance must be disqualified if the objection was laid in time. The only question is whether twenty-four hours or fourteen days should be allowed. She ran in this race, which was for horses that had not won £200 in 1888 or 1887, when she landed a race worth £500 at Sandown. I fancy that the objection came too late.

Sport at Croydon was fairly good, but not up to the standard of some former years. The attendance also showed a falling off, but the dreadful weather in a great measure would account for that. On Tuesday and Wednesday tremendous showers deluged the course before and during racing, and made the going extremely soft and heavy. The chief event on the opening day was the Grand National Hurdle Race, which brought out Sorrento, Alfred, Freedom, Duke of Richmond, Jacob, The Tyke, Guy Manning, and Conseruator. The last-named a son of Arbitrator was well suited by the mud, and won just as Harris pleased. Sorrento will win hurdle races. The Tyke is only half-schooled for jumping as yet; when he understands the business better he will pay for following. Guy Manning is another very useful recruit to the hurdle game. Bay Comus, who took the Stewards' Steeplechase, will want a lot of beating at two miles in any company. On Wednesday, Captain Lee-Barber, on Ireland, quite outdressed Captain Orr-Ewing, on Cloister, for the November Hunters' Steeplechase.

Ironclad's was a fine performance in the Wickham Hurdle Race, which he landed easily at last, carrying top weight, 12st. Alcous was greatly fancied, and made favourite. He failed to quite stay the distance, which was not altogether surprising, considering the state of the ground. Only five came out for the Great Metropolitan Steeplechase, but they made a most interesting chase. At the finish, Schem and Johnny Longtail were left to fight for the prize, and Johnny got the best of Schem by three-quarters of a length.

The New Zealanders on Monday were at Swinton engaged against the crack Lancashire Rugby club, who, as might have been expected, beat them very easily, in fact pointlessly, as Swinton had two tries and three minors and nothing against them. On the same afternoon, Presto North End were at Oxford, and scored three goals without permitting the Oxonians to get one. Although several of the Maoris were unable to play at Liverpool, they were equal to beating the weak Liverpool, and the field to represent Liverpool and District by one goal and six tries to nil.

Hanlan was ill advised to enter into his last engagement with William Beach—unless, that is, he had no share of risk in the £200 stake put up against the Australian. Beach held him quite safely after the first half mile in Tuesday's race on the Parramatta, and won very easily. According to latest accounts from America, O'Connor, Teemer, and Hamm are to go out to Sydney to tackle the Antipodeans' representative men. They will be welcomed warmly in the ordinary sense of the word, and also, perhaps, according to the less pleasant reading.

Mr. Budd, of the Rugby Union, has been at the pains to explain to footballers the reading of the new rule as to off-side. The R.U. president writes that the interpretation of the word "will" is to be determined by fact. Whenever a man plays a half off-side, whether he acts intentionally or unintentionally, a free kick can be claimed, and must be allowed. "Willfulness" must be assumed, because it is beyond any one else's power to diagnose his conscience. If, however, the ball merely touches a player who is off-side and is not played by him, it is fair to assume that he did not wish to touch it, and a scrumming only can be awarded. The distinction is reasonable enough, and quite easy of recognition when explained, though until the cases are properly put they seem very nearly on a par.

Major Marindin, of the Football Association, has been interviewed on the subject of rough football play. The major, who was a very self-sacrificing exponent of the game as goal-keeper, admits that there is too much heavy charging, but urges that his pet branch is not so dangerous as Rugby. The major is probably correct enough. Still, unnecessary roughness in either game is to be deprecated. He has been questioned also on the amateur-professional situation, and is not in favour of forming separate bodies, amateur and professional. While the Association's business affairs are wisely ruled he has no objection to the severance spoken of being effected. This view of the situation is hardly shared by others interested in Association play.

William Cook, the ex-champion professional billiard player, was unlucky enough, a few days ago, to be thrown from a banister and sprain his wrist. This accident, which has disabled Cook, who has lately been taking great care of himself, was very unfortunate indeed. He lost an engagement to perform at the Westminster Aquarium against the Scotch youngster, Hugh McNeil. Peall played in Cook's stead, and scored 100 in 10,000, spot-stroke barred. The Scotchman showed to great advantage in this spot, hazard-barred game, and on Tuesday made the break of the season, so far as this game, when he ran up 375.

Already offers have been heard to bet slight odds on Oxford Varsity for next spring's Inter-University boat-race. Critics who have seen both lots of men row on the Cam, or Thames, or Isis, declare that the Dark Blues have on hand the best material for selection, and profess not to care how the trial might come out when put together at Ely and Moulford.

The latest thing in the way of international touring is that of the American baseball team for Australia. Little importance attaches to the football branch of this expedition, but quite a sensation may be worked in the Antipodes by the baseball performers, whose game ought to catch on with the colonials. We are told that the scope of the excursion is to be greatly enlarged, and that, after the Australasian part of the programme has been worked out, the Americans will visit India on their way to Europe, there giving exhibitions in some of the continental cities, and wind up by starring England and Ireland. The expenses of such a prolonged campaign would be enormous, but the receipts would be commanded if only people fancied the Transatlantic pet game. That, I venture to think, they would.

Who is Warren, of Birmingham, the light-weight boxer, who is getting on so fast in America. Over here he is not recognised by our professors, but must be a pretty good man. His last performance was at San Francisco, where he easily settled Haviland, the light-weight who fought Murphy and was put up to lower Carney's pretensions. A good deal is said of a proposed fight between Jem Carney and McAuliffe. Carney offers liberal expenses to the little Yankee to fight in Europe. Per contra, McAuliffe talks about a handsome bonus to induce the Birmingham man to cross the Atlantic once more. In this particular the two are no nearer together than they were last year, and do not seem likely to come to terms. If they do, and fair play is allowed, Carney will surely beat his rival.

OLD IZAAK.

Most of our rivers are now thick and discoloured, owing to the recent wet weather. Two or three nights' frost, however, would alter this and cause the water to be in good condition for all-round angling.

A few rascals, dace, and jack have been taken in the Upper Thames by anglers during the last few days, but nothing has been done worthy of note except the capture of a pike weighing 21lb. in Walton Deep, by Mr. O'Dowd.

It would be interesting to know the age of a large pike like the above. The best authorities agree that a pike attains the length of about 12in. during the first year of its life, of 24in. during the second, and of 40in. during the third, but this theory would be affected by the condition of the water in which the fish lived and by the supply of food which it had.

Fish growth is undoubtedly slower in the still water of a lake than it is in the rapidly-flowing water of a river.

Another fine pike has been captured in Tring reservoir. It weighed 23lb., and measured 40in. from the tip of the nose to the end of the tail. It succumbed to the attractions of a live dace on a gorge hook. I would say that it is a pity that a fine fish like this should come to such an ignominious end, only in most reservoirs the water is so shallow round the edges, that, by reason of the distance, which has to be thrown, the use of a gorge bait is unavoidable.

The Lea has not, at present, been very seriously affected by the downpour of rain, and on Sunday last some good takes of roach were made. The recent flood has cleared the water well of rushes and weeds, and jack and perch are on the feed.

Mr. G. Watling, of the Funny Folks Angling Society, has recently weighed in well with 35lb. 10oz. of good roach. Mr. A. Knock, of the Cameronian Angling Society, has taken three pike, near

Reading, the largest of which weighed 10lb. 10oz., while Messrs. Mills and Taylor, members of the same society, have had some good chub.

A curious incident happened a few days ago at Datchet. A large black cat, full of milk, strayed on to the line during the night, at a point where the railway closely approaches the river bank, and was run over by a passing train and killed, being probably the first of its race which has met with its death in this manner.

The large increase in the number of otters on the banks of the Thames is doubtless due to the new Act, which stops the shooting; but the law is not without reason, as I was prepared to admit when, one morning lately, while wandering along the banks of the Lea, a gentleman in front of me suddenly fired a gun and nearly emptied the contents of his run-barrel into my body in his efforts to kill an unoffending little sparrow.

The Richmond Piscatorial Society has passed the following resolution with reference to the recent action of the Thames Angling Preservation Society in taking a trout which had been captured by the netmen below Kew Bridge and replacing it in the river at Hampton:—"The members of the R.P.S. strongly deprecate the action of the T.A.P.S. in removing the trout from the netmen, but would point out to the committee who are responsible, not only the illegality of the act, but also its great unfairness to anglers who are, in a measure, dependent on the Thames tideway for their sport."

Mr. G. A. Verrier kindly writes to inform me that while fishing recently at Isleworth with a friend, he hooked a fish which he at first supposed to be a barbel, but on bringing it to the surface he found that it was a trout. He did not succeed in forming a closer acquaintance, owing to an unsuccessful effort to land the landing net, but he calculates that it weighed about 15lb.

BUCKLAND, JUNIOR.

I am afraid that Mr. Perks' water tortoise is dead and not about to hibernate. Its shell has become as tenebrous as wet paper, and is quite rotten, while its eyes are white and meaningless. My correspondent's frogs and other amphibians which have become soft and flaccid, and have given rise to an extremely offensive smell, will evidently never again wake from their winter sleep.

Mr. J. Rooty, of Wandsworth, kindly sends particulars of a four-legged duck in his possession. The bird is full grown and apparently quite strong and healthy. It only makes use of two of its legs for walking, but my correspondent is of opinion that the other two are of slight assistance to it in swimming.

I have to chronicle the late appearance of a martin. Mr. Truman, of Brentford, observed one of these birds flying about in Kew Gardens on Friday, November 23rd. Gilbert White records that he saw one at Oxford as late as November 20th, and several flights he mentions as appearing in the first week of the same month.

The vitality of the old belief that snakes "sting" with their tongues is really wonderful. It still survives even in India, where the people should be familiar enough with the ways of serpents. Of course the reptiles do not sting at all, either with their tongues or their tails. They bite, and it is the venom ejected from their poison glands which does the mischief. Take out of the wound a snake's tongue, and it may be as harmless as a cobra's fangs and it may be as venomous as a cobra's fangs. The best place to grasp a snake is the neck, immediately behind the head, where the fingers can get better purchase than lower down on the body. A forked stick is a good implement for securing them alive, the ends of the fork being thrust into the ground until the arch comes down tightly on the neck.

Mr. Jamrach advertises for sale, among a number of other animals, a tame leopard, which follows its owner like a dog. Years ago, in India, I kept a spotted leopard of this species, and once I was bitten by one of them. The creature behaved quite decently as long as it was under my eye, but the moment my back was turned, its wild nature reasserted itself, and caused no end of complications. Great was my horror one day when I came upon the animal in the very act of stalking a native nurse with a British baby in her arms. But for my opportune appearance there would certainly have been a catastrophe. Leopards are not to be trusted, even when they have the best of characters from their last places.

"The sight of a worm always makes me shudder," quoth a fine lady the other day in my hearing. I had half a mind to reply that the worm has far better cause to shudder at the sight of a human being. Even from a purely aesthetic standpoint I dispute that there is anything repulsive about the annelid. Its form is rather elegant than otherwise, its movements have a deal of sinuous grace, and its colouring is by no means unharmonious. From a moral point of view its claims on our regard are still higher. It confers immense benefit on agriculturists by eating the soil, while it never does any harm to man or beast. It is a creature of great use to the world, and it is afforded by the fresh earth it brings to the surface. Over and above all this, it supplies an enormous store of food for birds, which would otherwise have to live entirely on a vegetable diet.

The cats in our neighbourhood seem to have entered into a conspiracy to torment poor Jim, our Irish terrier. When he is loose not a tabby or a tom dare show its feline face in the garden. He is down upon any intruder in a second, and makes for fly nicely. But at night he is chained to his kennel, and the cats have a chance of doing him mischief. A recent night he was held in a trap, and made a dash for freedom. There they sport and water-wail galore, while poor Jim nearly breaks his heart and his chain in frantic efforts to get at them.

Never trust to a pet bird being so tame that it will not fly away if it gets a chance. Our servants have just lost a marvellously tame redpoll through reposing implicit confidence in its attachment to the house. It would hop and fly all about the basement, following them from room to room and never showing the slightest wish to venture outside. But the door leading into the garden being open the other day the temptation proved irresistible, and Dicky spread his pinions in search of liberty, never to be seen again.

I have received from Mr. Stewart, of Merton, the dimensions of an extremely large egg lately laid by a fowl on his premises. It is 2½ inches in length, while the circumference is about 6½ inches. The egg weighed four ounces. Hens are rather fond of laying peculiar eggs. I have seen them sometimes very small and round, sometimes small and elongated, sometimes of monstrous size, and in this case, sometimes double-yolked, and sometimes shaped almost like an hour-glass.

THE ACTOR.

High jinks indeed were those which were held at the Beaufort Club late on Saturday night and early on Sunday morning, the 24th and 25th ult. The occasion was another of these agreeable smoking concerts for which the club is becoming renowned, and which owe so much of their attraction to the actors and vocalists whose services the secretaries secure. This time we had Arthur Roberts and Alice Marsh from the Avenue, Courtney Pounds from the Savoy, Durward Lely and Suzanne from the Opera Comique, John Le Hay from the Prince of Wales's, and so on, and so on. When I left—at three a.m. on the Sunday—the warbling, the recitations, and the laughter were still going on.

I had spent most of the evening at the Jodrell, where "The Alder" was being played for the first time at night. There was a full house, and

the "dress" part of it looked quite brilliant. In one of the boxes was Mrs. Jodrell herself, all livered with jewels and gold (as the song says), and in another Miss Hawthorne, who had come to "grace" the entertainment of which her compatriot, Colonel Sargent, is the manager. It was soon evident that dissatisfaction was brewing in pit and gallery, and when the curtain fell the verdict was clearly very "mixed." Nevertheless, Mr. Mortimer, the author, had the pluck to come out and face the malcontents, who simmered down under the influence of his self-reliant bearing.

Earlier in the day I had had the privilege of being present at the dress rehearsal of "Brantingham Hall," Mr. Gilbert's new piece. It was rather tedious, for it did not begin till three-quarters of an hour after the time named, and the two "waits" were long indeed. During one of these the company were invited to "refresh" upstairs, and this part of the proceedings proved rather a scramble. I am bound to say that Mr. Barrington's guests appeared to do every justice to his hospitality.

Between the acts Miss Neilson, looking really lovely—she has a charming face—came down into the stalls and conversed, among others, with the dramatist. She was accompanied by a young man, who must be superhuman indeed if he could resist the influence of such fascinations. For the rest, most of those present were ladies, and very enthusiastic they were about the piece, "calling" both Miss Neilson and Mr. Gilbert at the close. Personally, I was most impressed with the acting of Mr. Lewis Waller, which struck me as full of earnestness and conviction.

On Monday evening to St. George's Hall, where the management put forward a new first part in the shape of a pleasant little comedy, by Mr. Walter Browne, called "The Bo'sun's Mate." For this Mr. A. J. Caldicott has written the music, and very tuneful it is. It is not specially original, but it is very light and pleasing, and it is well rendered on the whole by the clever company. Mr. Laris is not quite satisfying as the tenor, and Mr. Alfred Reed's voice has seen better days, but both gentlemen are very useful in the ensembles, and Miss Holland, Miss Tully, and Mr. Browne are excellent throughout.

Mr. Browne used to be a member of Mr. O'Dy's Savoy company, and is a thorough artist, both vocally and histrionically. "The Bo'sun's Mate," the reader may be reminded, is followed by "John Bull Abroad," Mr. Corney Grain's amusing new sketch, which he has worked up considerably since the first performance some days ago. It is now at its best. Among those present on Monday were Mr. and Mrs. Bancroft.

There was a considerable gathering of "the profession" at the Criterion on Tuesday afternoon, where the observed of all observers were Mr. Charles Wyndham and Miss Mary Moore, safe Charles Wyndham's thick upon them. Among the others I noted Miss Charlotte Leclercq, Miss Mary Porter, Miss Clara Grahame, Mr. Thomas Thorne, Mr. E. W. Gardner, &c. By the way, the "Mr. Johnston" who figured in the cast of "The Widow Winsome" was Mr. Frank Farren, son of Mr. W. Farren.

Mr. H. A. Freeman, the courteous acting-manager of the new Grand Theatre, Islington, was good enough to take me all over the building on Wednesday, the day before that chosen for the "private view." I was delighted with all I saw. The construction of the theatre does every credit to the architect, Mr. Matcham. It is one of the most commodious and comfortable places of amusement in London, and worthy not only of the north, but of the west. Everywhere you can see well, and the exits are almost excessive, they are so numerous. The artists, too, are quite safe, for their dressing-rooms are divided from the stage by a thick wall.

Mr. Wilmot has been judicious in his choice of "stars" for the forthcoming Grand pantomime. Miss Julia Warden for principal boy, Miss Dot Mario for principal girl, and, for comedians, P. Williams, Mr. Kinchmore, J. Burgess, J. M. Jones, E. C. Dunbar, and Major Crackles—that is a very promising selection.

Another provincial production during the last few days has been that of "True Heart," by Mr. Henry Byatt, at Leamington. Mr. Byatt is the author of "The Brothers," now playing at the Vaudeville. His new piece seems to have been genuinely well received, and will soon be seen in London. It was interpreted by Mr. Yorke Stephens, Miss Clara Cowper, and other artists more or less well known in London, including Mr. Henry Elmore, a son of Mr. W. P. Frith.

JACK ALLROUND.

"Will you kindly tell me how to brown a gun-barrel?" If "Gun-barrel" will get some antimony chloride as his "browning salt," and mix it with a little olive oil, and with a rag rub the mixture over the barrel, leaving it for forty-eight hours to rust, then with a scratch brush remove the rust and apply oil, his object will be accomplished in the simplest way.

I have received several requests for recipes for both "rich" and "plain" Christmas puddings. I have space for only one this week, which I give in reply to "E. A.," who asks for "a good Christmas pudding for a family." Three-quarters of a pound of beef suet very finely shred, and mix a pinch of salt through it; one pound muscadine raisins (buy those loose, not in bunches, and they will be cheap and are far better flavoured than ordinary pudding raisins), stone them carefully; one pound currants, washed and well dried before the fire. Set these aside. Take one pound and a half bread crumbs and half a pound flour, rub them together; half an ounce ground allspice (not mixed spice) and as much ground ginger as will fit on a threepenny-bit, and half a small nutmeg grated. First mix the spices through the bread crumbs and flour, then add two ounces of mixed candied peel chopped rather coarsely; next mix in the suet well, and follow with the fruit and half a pound of soft sugar. When the ingredients are thoroughly mixed, add four well-beaten eggs, and enough milk to moisten slightly; if made too moist it will be heavy. Tie in a well-floured pudding cloth, and have the water boiling when you put it in, and keep slowly boiling and covering the pudding for five or six hours, and you will have a Christmas pudding you need not fear to give your children.

"J. R." writes: "Having obtained a large paper map of London I have mounted it on calico, and wish to know how to varnish it." Lay or pin the map on a common table or board; then pour over it a little singlass dissolved in hot water; wash the whole gently in an earthenware vessel until hot, when it should be taken out and spread over paper to throw off the steam and get cool. If made carefully, it will keep for a week or two. The proportions of the separate ingredients are varied according to circumstances, the sort of birds to be fed, the season of the year, &c. Some bird fanciers consider German paste a dangerously stimulating food, and repudiate its use altogether.

"G. J. G." wants to know how he can make about eight feet square of tarpanin, or water-proof stuff, black or light-coloured, and what sort of canvas or linen he should buy. Any stout canvas or sailcloth will answer. For the water-proofing, grind a pound and a half of English ocher with boiled oil until thoroughly worked into a stiff, paint-like consistency. Then take half an ounce yellow soap dissolved in one gill of hot water, and while hot mixed into half a pound of black paint; then mix this compound into the prepared ocher and oil. With a brush paint this as stiff as you can over the dry canvas, and leave it for two days, when a second coat of the ocher and oil and black paint, omitting the soap, is to be laid on. When the second coat is quite dry, finish the work with a coat of black or any other coloured paint you choose.

"I have a pair of deer antlers that I am desirous of mounting; can you inform me how to bleach and polish the skull portion?" writes "Firebury." I have known skulls cleaned and bleached for specimens by letting them stand in spirits of turpentine in the open air for six or eight days. The necessary precaution to be taken is that the turpentine causes an acid to fall to the bottom which would destroy the bone if it rested on it.

I am asked by "Bob Stay" for a recipe to make "the ordinary gingerbread of the shops." There are several sorts of gingerbread—cakes, biscuits, and nuts—ordinarily found in the shops. The following is perhaps the cheapest sort made; it is, I believe, largely sold cut into squares at a penny and a halfpenny each. Mix half an ounce carbonate of soda with four ounces of flour, make a hollow in the centre of the flour, and pour into it two pounds of treacle; dissolve an ounce and a half of pearl ash in half a gill of cold water, and pour it on the treacle, take an ounce and a half of alum, put it into half a gill of water, and boil it dissolved, and pour it also over the treacle; then mix the ingredients well together, and lay the mixture aside in a basin till next day, when it should be spread on shallow tins, baked, and cut into squares.

The mildness of the present season is, if not unexampled, certainly without parallel in recent years. Near my house there is a hawthorn tree in full leaf, being the second crop of foliage during the present year. A friend tells me that in his garden some sea-swallows were seen on the 1st of November. In the olden time these signs of high temperature would have been regarded as ominous for human health. That theory can no longer be upheld; all statistics prove that the milder the winter the lower the rate. And not only that, but the area of employment remains undiminished by the closing of out-of-door industries.

Sir Edward Walter, the self-sacrificing founder of the Corps of Commissioners, has succeeded in establishing a prosperous branch in Australia. This is chiefly recruited from time-expired soldiers leaving India, who are there furnished with employment at once, and saved the trials and temptations awaiting them in England. Sir Edward states that the average earnings per head of the Australian branch exceed £2 10s. a week, being 75 per cent. above the English average. The cost of living is about the same, excepting house rent and clothing, which are excessively dear.

An incident which occurred at the Hammer-smith Broadway polling place during the School Board contest seems to show that some lady voters have not acquainted themselves with elector law. A young dame, very nicely dressed and bearing every appearance of respectability, presented herself, and having obtained a ballot paper proceeded to fill it in. Having done so, she openly showed it to a lady friend who was with her, in spite of the strong remonstrances of the official in charge. Nor did she desist until she threatened to give her into custody, when she withdrew, laughing comically as if it were an exquisite joke. The angry official stated that the same thing had occurred at an earlier hour, and he gave notice of his resolve to hand over to the police the next lovely or unlovely offender.

Last Monday all the sporting writers, both in town and country, announced that the flat racing season had ended. But there is a collateral sport which goes on all the year round. "Flat" hunting has no close season any more than landlord shooting in Ireland. It is a pastime which appears to afford unending pleasure to hunters and hunted alike. If rumour speaks truly, it is especially in vogue just now at not a few West-end clubs of high degree. Lord Verisopht still finds many representatives at these luxurious establishments, and so does Sir Mulberry Hawk. It cannot be helped; pigeons were made to be plucked.

Our Yankee cousins are making great preparations to observe the total eclipse of the sun which will be visible on New Year's Day along the Pacific coast. Londoners need not go outside their own boundaries to witness this phenomenon. During the winter months it occurs, on the average, about every other day, and generally lasts for several hours. Yet so great is our modesty that we never take credit for being specially favoured by Dame Nature.

There was another total eclipse of far greater consequence which American astronomers at the Wall-Street observatory lately anticipated. They conceived that the great financial sun, Mr. Jay Gould, was about to be utterly obscured by the shadow of a supposed hostile combination. As the event proved, however, he and his alleged enemies were on the same side, and the sun o Gould consequently shines more brilliantly than ever. Wonderful are the depths of American Stock Exchange speculation; no mortal man can sound them.

A lady friend of mine is disconsolate because all her servants have given warning in a body. The reason for this strike is that she objects to the reception of masculine visitors in the back garden, insisting that if they come at all it shall be openly through the usual way of entrance. Not without cause did she lay down this rule; one night, happening to look out of a window at the back of the house, she witnessed a merry game of romps going on in the moonlight, with all her domestics chivving about like tabby cats. The visitors were two Guardsmen and a civilian nasher.

The electric light has one drawback for use in the public streets: its brilliancy is so great that wayfarers have their eyes dazzled, and on coming out of the sphere of effulgence cannot see for some moments. This might be obviated by placing the light on high standards, as is done in the United States. Thus Piccadilly Circus might be beautifully illuminated by a large light in the centre with a top shade to throw down the rays on the open space. Instead of this equality of illumination, the place is positively dangerous at night by reason of the number of electric dazzlers which shoot their blinding rays into the optics of the madding crowd.

It is the fashion to howl against the great landlords of London, on the ground that they do not give the community a fair share of the natural increment of value. Without entering into that prickly question, I may point to the enormous improvements now being effected in the Covent Garden locality as a proof that some good does result from the present distribution of land. Were the area in a multitude of hands, it would be impossible to get the proprietors to agree to a scheme of improvement costing between a quarter of a million and half a million. It will be the bill the Duke of Bedford has to pay before his "plan of operations" is an accomplished fact.

NEW REMEDY APPLIED.—Sufferers who have themselves a lifetime of discomfort, and torture by using property after with Mr. C. B. Harrison's Electric and Galvanic Battery, Electrostatic and Galvanic, and call to-day if possible. Pamphlet free.—L.A.E.

THE DUKE OF MARLBOROUGH'S

MARRIAGE.
The Duke of Marlborough has withdrawn his annual subscription of £100 from the parochial schools at Woodstock, and the schools have been closed. The schools have been under the control of the Marlborough family for a long period. There have been some differences between the Duke of Marlborough and the Rev. Mr. Majendie, rector of Woodstock, the latter having declined to have the church bells rung when his grace brought his wife home recently from New York.

ASSAULTING AN ACTRESS.
At Wolverhampton on Saturday, a tailor named Henry Lowder was fined for assaulting Mrs.

Nellie Lionel, a provincial actress, who is appearing at the Star Theatre in that town. The defendant, with companions, entered the theatre smoking long pipes, and during a pathetic scene he threw a large carrot at the defendant, striking her on the arm.

ALARMING RAILWAY ACCIDENT.

An accident of an alarming nature happened on Saturday afternoon at Walton Beeches, near Warrington. Two trains, one consisting of empty wagons, and the other laden with sand, collided on the Ship Canal Railway line, an engine and several wagons being smashed, and the latter thrown into the River Mersey. Mr. Griffiths, the agent, and several foremen, seeing the danger, leapt from the train, two of them falling into the river. They were, however, rescued. An engine-driver, who kept to his post, was severely injured.

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LONDON, E. (Established 1852)

"THE PEOPLE" MIXTURE.

Prisoners are in Moscow in the woods and cesses at Kent.

The Heineke-Low prize at the Royal Academy of Music was won by W. J. Kippes. There were thirteen candidates.

Mr. Joseph Bowles, stationer, of George-street, Mansion House, has been elected a member of the Common Council for the ward of Walbrook.

Mr. G. C. Kiln is now a well-known Shakespearean actor at Sydney. A few years ago he was a clergyman with £2,000 a year, at Chicago.

Vegetable parchment is being experimented with in the Prussian railways as a substitute for brass or axle bearings.

Policeman Kenny went to a house at Chatterbox, Tennessee, to arrest a negro. He was there shot dead by Charles Johnson.

There is said in New South Wales to be a brother of Mr. George Augustus Sala running marble quarries in that colony.

John Nann was a few months ago a hospital porter at Napier, New Zealand. He has now come into a fortune of £180,000.

There was found the other morning in the Bois de Boulogne, Paris, the dead body of an unknown man, who had strangled himself with a piece of iron wire.

From the 1st of January to the 1st of October last the total length of new railways constructed and under construction in the United States was 2,048 miles.

A dog was the cause of the quarrel—at White Finks, Maryland—between Samuel Young and his son-in-law, George Warren. It resulted in Young shooting Warren.

A native magistrate at Calcutta has been guilty of bribery and corruption. He has brought him two years' rigorous imprisonment, and cost him a fine of 3,000 rupees.

Jesse James, jun., the son and heir of a Missouri judge, is at work in the real estate office of an ex-Governor Crittenden of that State—the very man who secured his father's death.

A terrible storm visited the whole of the Atlantic seaboard on Sunday, blocking railway and telegraphic communications, and causing great damage by land and sea.

There was disappointment for the thieves who broke into the Olney parish church. The authorities had inconsiderately removed the communion plate, and only left a few coppers in the alms-boxes.

It has been determined to store at every regimental district headquarters in Great Britain a thousand stand of arms and sets of accoutrements for the prompt equipment of the men of the Army Reserve.

The Transvaal Government are importing arms and ammunition through Delagoa Bay. Two thousand stand of arms and a quantity of ammunition have passed over the Delagoa Bay Railway consigned to them.

Steve Roddis is known in America as a "bridge jumper." His latest feat was to jump the bridge which spans the Hudson River from Poughkeepsie to Highlands. The bridge is 2,200 ft. high. He broke three of his ribs.

Another story of vitriol-throwing comes from Etampes. A young woman of that town, Eugénie Navarre, attempted to avenge herself upon her lover by disfiguring his features with the corrosive liquid. The young man had abandoned her.

A serious explosion of gas occurred at a private house in Sandfield-road, Balham, whereby a lodger, named George Burdett, aged 32 years, together with his son, Reginald, a little boy aged 10 years, were terribly burned about the face and hands.

The Duchess of Sutherland died on Monday morning at Stafford House, St. James's Park, at the age of 59. Her grace was a peeress in her own right, having been created Countess of Cromartie in 1861, and by her death her second son, Viscount Tarnish, succeeds to the earldom.

A good story comes from Brighton. A neighbouring rector possesses an ambitious servant maid. During a brief holiday he left another clergyman in charge of his parish as locum tenens. This rector was described by the maid to all inquirers for the rector as the "local demon!"

This was how William Brown, a miner in a colliery of Cleveland, Ohio, attempted suicide. He placed three kegs of powder in the stove where they would be exploded by fire, afterwards cutting his throat. Two kegs exploded, but, in spite of this and the knife wound, he will recover.

At a meeting this week of the Royal Commission upon the Civil Service Establishment, Mr. H. Murray, deputy chairman of Customs and Excise, and Mr. R. T. Power, Surveyor-General of Customs, were further examined as to the desirability of amalgamating the Customs and Inland Revenue into one department.

The Porte is considering a scheme for the constitution of a State bank under German management, with a view of diminishing the exclusive privileges which the Ottoman Bank holds, but upon it, as it has refused to make payment on behalf of the Government unless its advances were provided for.

Mrs. Wilson Noble has opened an exhibition of women's work at Hastings. The exhibition is on the lines of the women's section at Glasgow, but is confined to the county of Sussex, and contains many admirable examples of work, as well as a loan collection of antiquities from residents in the neighbourhood.

Thomas Terry and Charles Ward were further remanded, at the Westminster Police Court on Monday, on the charge of conspiring to obtain money from ladies and gentlemen by professing to be able to secure them good positions on the stage. The details have already appeared in our columns.

The rector of Woodstock, the Rev. A. Majendie, writes that the Duke of Marlborough has not closed the parochial schools of Woodstock, but has simply withdrawn his annual subscription of £10 (not £100); but he has forbidden the vicar and his curates to give any religious instruction in the schools of Bladon, and has withdrawn the privilege of driving through Blenheim Park.

While the Hon. Sydney Holland, the son of Lord Knutsford, and his wife were driving towards the railway station at Ipswich, the pony became unmanageable, and when dashing along at a terrific rate swerved and upset the vehicle. The Hon. Sydney Holland sustained concussion of the brain. His wife escaped with some contusions on the face.

From Odessa it is reported that the roll of Army reserve men throughout the southern and south-eastern military provinces of Russia is being closely scrutinised and checked, the addresses verified, and the reservists subjected to a close medical inspection, in order to place the frontier divisions in a state of absolute readiness for all political eventualities.

In the French Chamber M. Wilson, the son-in-law of M. Grévy, this week resumed a seat he had not occupied for nearly a year, and the members generally showed their objection to M. Wilson's presence. The sitting was suspended, and the President left the chair, but on his resuming it three-quarters of an hour afterwards M. Wilson was still in his seat.

Mr. E. Harrington, M.P., did not appear at the Crimes Act Court at Finsbury on Monday, to answer the charges made against him, but his solicitor asked for an adjournment of the case. This was proposed on the ground that since he was served with the summonses Mr. Harrington had repeated one of the offences. The magistrates said a contempt of court had been committed, and they issued a warrant for the arrest of Mr. Harrington.

The employees in the various departments of the extensive building occupied by the Glasgow Post Office were surprised the other night to find all the electric lights suddenly go out, and it was seen that there was a fire on the roof, caused, it is said, by some defect in connection with the electric lighting apparatus. The fire was soon

extinguished, and the building was lighted with candles.

New York on Sunday was visited by a snow-storm of exceptional severity.

The late Duchess of Sutherland was so enthusiastic a testifier that she always wore the blue ribbon.

Charles Rich, of New York, had a quarrel with his intended bride. He went home and committed suicide.

An unknown man sought Niagara Falls to end his life. He deliberately jumped into the river, and was carried over the falls.

So Temple Bar again rears its head aloft. It forms an imposing feature in Sir Henry Meux's private grounds at Waltham Cross.

American item: The demand for Mrs. Cleveland's photograph has greatly increased at the print shops since her husband's death.

It is now an open secret that the Czarina has never recovered the terrible shock to her nerves caused by the recent railway accident.

During last week 14,791 persons visited the British Museum. This brings the total number of visitors since the opening to 26,969,503.

For twenty-two years Mr. Stephen Reay had been secretary of the London and North-Western Railway. The staff now lament his death.

A movement has been initiated at Woolwich for the erection of a suitable memorial to the late Colonel Duncan.

M. Hertel, president of the Swiss Confederation, whose leg was amputated the other day, has since died.

The German East African Company have resolved to petition the Reichstag for a loan of 10,000,000 marks, for the equipment of an armed force for service on the east coast of Africa.

The deaths registered in London last week were 370 below the average in the corresponding weeks of the last ten years, the death-rate per thousand being 17.2.

The convention concluded between the Minister of Finance and a group of bankers relative to the new Russian loan has now received the Imperial sanction.

Ten foxhounds belonging to the Kildare Hunt were found dead in their kennels, the other six having been poisoned by meat which they picked up on the road while returning from hunting.

The Glasgow ship Estrella de Chili, which left Whitehaven last week for the River Plate, has been wrecked in the Solway Firth. The mate was drowned, the remainder of the crew being rescued after great suffering.

At a meeting of the Council of the Metropolitan Hospital Sunday Fund, held at the Mansion House, a suggestion contained in a letter read from the Bishop of London, that Hospital Sunday next year should be on June 23rd, was approved.

At West Bromwich, James J. Raybould, landlord of the Anchor Inn, High-street, has been convicted for permitting betting on his licensed premises on three days last month, and fined 45s and costs in each case.

James Hunt, a young member of the Georgia Legislature, was killed in Atlanta by H. S. Moore. The men, who were room mates, indulged in a wrestle in the room. Hunt, in the struggle, hurt Moore, who drew a knife and stabbed his friend in the stomach, causing death in twenty minutes.

In 1883 there were in the United States 28,600 locomotives. To perform the work accomplished by these, 34,000,000 horses and 12,500,000 men would be required. The cost of working the railroads is given at £109,520,000 per annum, but to perform the work with men and horses would cost £2,261,700,000.

Constable W. O'Hooligan is an enlightened member of the Sydney force. He was giving evidence before the local bench. "I was," said he, "the only person in the house at the time except another policeman who was outside." The bench did not order the constable's immediate promotion.

A New South Wales country hospital advertised a few weeks ago for a married couple to act as warden and matron. Amongst the numerous applicants was a man who wrote, stating "that as he had been accustomed to overlooking sick sheep in quarantine he thought he would be available for the position."

The affairs of the British East African Company at Mombasa continue to make rapid and satisfactory progress. Messrs. MacKenzie and Mathews have settled the vexed question of fugitive domestic slaves harboured at the mission station there, which lately threatened to culminate in an armed attack on the missionaries.

The coroner for East Worcestershire concluded an inquest into the death of Walter John Flowerdew, who had died from the effects of injuries somewhat mysteriously received on November 17th, when, during a quarrel, he was knocked down. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death.

A serious collision has taken place at La Chiffa, Algeria, between Italian workmen and a party of French troops. The troops were sent to the district in consequence of the menacing attitude of the Italians, who had been discharged from employment, and in a conflict which ensued the soldiers fired on the Italians, killing one and wounding three others.

At the Manchester Assizes this week, several Post Office employees were summoned for stealing letters containing valuable Joseph Rogers, sorter, and Thomas William (priest), clerks, were each sentenced to five years' penal servitude. Sentences of nine and twelve months' imprisonment were passed in other cases.

A man named Williams was sentenced at the Mansion House to three months' imprisonment, with hard labour, for stealing pewter pots from the Blackfriars Hotel and other licensed houses in the City. In reply to the Lord Mayor as to what possible use the pots could be to such a thief, as they had the names of the proprietors upon them, the police stated that it was believed they were melted down for the manufacture of counterfeit coin.

At Hammersmith Police Court another complaint was made against the Working Men's Club, New King's-road, Fulham. The applicant said the clapping of hands and shouting that went on all night in the club prevented his getting any rest. Mr. Paget, the magistrate, said a club had no personality, and the applicant might as well summon a ghost; the only remedy was by way of indictment against somebody for causing a nuisance.

At the Marylebone Police Court, Harry Humphreys, described as a billiard player, was ordered to enter into his own recognisances in £500, and to find two sureties in £250 each, or be imprisoned for one month, for using threats towards a young woman named Vassian, at Kilburn. The prosecutrix was waiting for a relative when the defendant accosted her, and, producing a large dagger-knife from up his sleeve, showed it to her and said, "This will do for you."

The magistrate at Hammersmith had before him cases in which William James Gibson, a sergeant in the 1st Middlesex Engineers Volunteer Corps, was charged with maliciously wounding Private John Curran, of the King's Royal Rifle, who in turn made a cross-charge of maliciously wounding against Gibson. From the evidence it appeared that an affray in which the public-house shortly after midnight on November 24th. The Volunteer was discharged and the soldier remanded.

A deputation of engine-drivers, guards, and other employees of the London and North-Western Railway Company waited upon Mr. Matthews, at the Home Office, to intimate their approval of the scheme for insurance against accidents at present subsisting between the company and its servants, and to urge the importance of maintaining the insurance clauses of the Employers' Liability Bill. The Home Secretary, in reply, said he had introduced the third clause with the object of maintaining such arrangements as the

deputation had advocated. He proposed to abide by the clause as it stood.

There are in London this week 67,743 paupers. Last year the number was 83,084.

A Chamberlain telegram says the total number of miners on strike in the different coal centres in Belgium reaches 2,000.

The Liverpool ship Bononia has been abandoned off Heligoland. Two men were drowned; the others were landed at Yarmouth.

A small fishing boat was swamped in Montrose Harbour the other day, and two men were drowned.

At the Thames Police Court, William Duncan was sentenced to seven days' imprisonment for personating a voter at the School Board election.

The Emperor William is going to give £7,000 for a Pullman car on the American model. It will contain bed-room, dressing and bath-room, dining-room, and library.

There is another man who doesn't want to blush when he finds his generosity famed. So he has sent £5,000 to the Midland Eye Hospital at Birmingham anonymously.

The latest thing in walking-sticks is for lady smokers. It contains a series of cigarettes. The knob opens, and by a patent invention the cigarettes are brought up in succession.

The embankment near Byfield Station on the East and West Junction Railway, subsided, and no train was able to get to Stratford-on-Avon for some hours.

It is denied that the Belgian Government has any intention of making the Chambers for a credit of 125,000,000 francs for armament purposes, as has been stated.

The dowry of Miss Belle Wilson—the daughter of the New York banker, who was married this week to the Hon. Michael Herbert, our Charge d'Affaires at Washington, and Lord Pembroke's brother—was £250,000.

Brooklyn has had a unique wedding. The contracting parties were Mrs. Emily Keith, a widow, and Mr. William Hutton, a well-known sculptor. They are natives. They performed their portion of the ceremony by sign.

Hiram Batin and William Ashley, district school directors, living near Cozad, Nebraska, were murdered, and their bodies concealed in a haystack. The bodies, when found, had been mutilated by hogs.

The funeral of Sir D. W. Barclay, formerly of the Legislative Council of Mauritius, took place on Tuesday at Willesden Lane Cemetery, the first part of the burial service being read in St. Barnabas Church, Addison-road.

A farmer named Powell, while riding on horseback over a level crossing outside Wylde Station, near Salisbury, was knocked down by a passing train and cut to pieces. The crossing is at a curve.

Mr. T. Sutherland, M.P., presided on Tuesday evening at a house dinner of members of the City Liberal Club, which took place at the club, Walbrook. There was a large attendance, which was chiefly composed of Unionist members.

The Queen, accompanied by the Empress Frederick, travelled to town from Windsor Castle on Tuesday, in order to pay a visit of condolence to the family of the late Duchess of Sutherland at Stafford House.

At the Liverpool Police Court, Mary Roberts, a beggar, was searched, and it was discovered that notwithstanding her piteous story of poverty she was not quite on the verge of starvation. The sum of 410s. 5d. was found in her possession, £10 being in three-pony pieces.

In consequence of the death of the Rev. Richard Oakes, provost of King's College, Cambridge, who was one of the oldest members of the governing body at Founder's, the annual banquet which is held on Founder's Day, December 6th, has been postponed.

Poor Pat Delaney, an old man of 80, has been murdered at Castlebar, Co. Kilkenny. He interfered in a quarrel between his niece and her husband, a man named McEvoy, when the latter—so it is alleged—struck the old man on the head with a bottle, causing his death almost instantly.

At the Clerkenwell Police Court two men, named Harrow and Deacon, have been committed for trial at the Central Criminal Court, but being refused, on a charge of being concerned together in assaulting Mr. William Broughton, a comedian, and stealing various articles from Mr. Paslieu, a journalist, under circumstances already reported in the Press.

The Portsmouth magistrates have sentenced Daniel Stanhope, 24, to six months' hard labour for wilfully neglecting to provide her two infants with adequate food. The children, who were twins, were kept in a filthy condition, and fed chiefly on dry bread. The heaviest weighed only 9½ lb. The parents frequently stayed away for a week at a time drinking heavily.

When the Estrella de Chile was sinking in the Solway, an apprentice went below in a hurried manner, and afterwards, when the crew had to take to the rigging for safety, most of them held on with both hands, but the apprentice kept one hand to his breast. Asked whether he had got his money there, the apprentice replied, "No; but I have the portraits of my dear mother and sister."

At Bristol the coroner has held an inquest on the three men who were killed on November 21st, by an explosion of naphtha. The deceased formed part of the crew of the Ketch United States, loaded with a cargo of naphtha for London. An open verdict was returned, and the jury expressed an opinion that immediate legislation was required on the subject of the loading and transit of petroleum and such substances.

Dr. G. D. Thomas, coroner, held an inquest at Hammersmith on the body of Mr. Welby James Milton, solicitor, aged 50, who resided at 46, Primrose Hill-road, and who shot himself with a revolver in his bed-room on November 25th. It was stated that for months past the deceased had suffered from melancholia. The jury returned a verdict of suicide while of unsound mind.

Mr. Justice North on Tuesday gave judgment upon the application against Mr. Gent Davis, a clerk, for non-compliance with an order to pay £3,700 found due from him as receiver and manager of the business of the late Mr. Gent. £1,500 had been paid into court, and time was asked for payment of the balance. The judge refused delay, and ordered a writ of attachment to immediately be issued.

In the towns and villages of Donegal county miraculous cures are said to be effected by a young Catholic priest named Larkin, lately arrived from Surrey. Enormous crowds follow the priest's steps, and scenes of excitement occur such as are associated with the famous apparitions at Knock. It is reported that cripples carried many miles by their crutches and walked, and sight has been restored to the blind.

At the Highgate Police Court Edward Good, 38, financial agent, has been remanded on the charge of threatening to murder his wife. The prosecutrix said that the accused was in the habit of ill-treating her, and that on Monday week he placed a knife on the table and threatened to "do" for her, adding, her life hung upon a thread which he intended to cut. The prisoner denied the statement made by his wife, and said the charge arose out of her "sentimentalism, sensationalism, and singular mania."

In the City Summons Court, the other day, an omnibus conductor was summoned for wilfully deceiving passengers as to the amount of their fares. His bus ran between Charing Cross and Liverpool-street, and on the windows of the vehicle there were two bills stating that the fare "in or out" was one penny. The defendant wanted to charge the passengers twopenny, but they objected. The conductor drew attention to a list of fares inside the bus, which he said was the proper list. For the defence it was alleged that the bill on the window had "one penny outside." The defendant was fined 20s. and costs.

Alderman Tyler considering it a clear case of deception.

The number of paupers receiving relief in the metropolitan district is 67,743.

A bullet fired at M. J. Hogan, of Chicago, struck a penny in his pocket, and was turned aside.

The Lord Chancellor on Wednesday unveiled a bust of the late Sir George Jessel, which has been placed in one of the corridors of the Royal Courts of Justice.

Mr. Sydney Courtland has presented extensive pleasure gardens to the parishes of Braintree and Bocking, Essex. He has also provided for their maintenance by an endowment.

IN THE SWIM.

BY A CITY SHARK.

The speculative atmosphere is still uncharged with electricity, the general belief being that the gold drain will break out again after a short spell of rest. South America being apparently satisfied for the moment, all the talk is about forthcoming European loans for large amounts, the Russian loan for twenty millions leading the way. Should any strain of that sort take place before the end of the year, we may see a 6 per cent. or even a 7 per cent. Bank rate, accompanied by some approach to a monetary panic. Fortunately, the financiers engaged in the loans are far too discreet to introduce them at such an unpropitious time, except the Muscovite emission, which is bound to come out very shortly. Should it be largely over-subscribed, other borrowers will come to the front, but not until after the New Year, when the Bank of England should be in a much stronger position than at present. The situation is undoubtedly a ticklish one, however it may be regarded, presenting chances both of great gain and great loss. Should the gold drain dry up for the next fortnight, we may count upon an important rise before next settlement, but the slightest appearance of its revival would be sure to drive down prices pretty heavily. My own opinion veers towards the former contingency, my belief being that the account is considerably overvalued in some departments. The international is not among them, however; here the account is still dangerously overbought, and I should be very sorry to open a bull in any stock largely dealt in on the continental bourses. No doubt, most in preparation for a hot "corner" was the market until the Russian loan is placed, but so general is the disposition of the public to sell that these endeavours cannot be reasonably expected to do more than prevent a further fall. An operator for the rise would therefore stand a by no means unlikely chance of losing heavily, without any corresponding chance of making a haul. The South American market has witnessed a smart recovery in Argentina of all denominations, the cause being large investment purchases on continental accounts. The "bears" became terribly frightened, suspecting that a hot "corner" was in preparation, and their buying back savoured strongly of panic. Violent oscillations of this sort may be expected until the New Four-and-a-half per cent. Argentine bonds get into strong hands. When that is accomplished, it will need only reasonably cheap money to carry up all the 5 per cent. issues to par. American rails remain depressed; they seem to be quite at the mercy of the "bears," who knock them about with perfect impunity. No wonder, either, after the many scurvy tricks played by the Wall-street gamblers. John Bull may well say, "Stew in your own juice, ye knaves." As if one set of rates was not enough for the northern American continent, Canada must get up another on her own account between the Canadian Pacific and the Grand Trunk. It promises to be an exhausting struggle; needless to say, therefore, neither line figures in my book. English rails are fairly strong, taking one day with another, but no advance worth speaking of has taken place since last week. Could one only make use of a tolerably easy money market there might be scope for genius in this department. The forthcoming dividends are certain to show considerable improvement in most cases, and this anticipation should influence the knowing ones to endeavour to forestall the public by early buying. Indian gold mines are beginning to show something like real promise at last, the monthly yield now amounting to a respectable figure and increasing steadily. It may be, therefore, that those prophets will prove right who predicted handsome returns as soon as the borings were carried down to the deep. Naudydoors, Balgahat, and Ooregum have the most tempting appearance of the lot, the latter being especially attractive. All three are worth consideration as speculative investments of the gambling sort.

BETA.—Being a large shareholder in the concern, you are in a better position to judge the past management than I can be. It would be the height of rashness for me to attempt to predict whether good or harm would result from swapping some shares crossing the Atlantic.

WATER SCARCITY.—All concerns of the sort are accompanied by considerable risk. I know nothing about the one in particular, but strongly advise you to make very searching inquiry before investing.

JACOBS.—The stock is likely, I think, to see a somewhat better price, but should money become dearer it will, of course, fall in company with others.

WIRE ADDRESS—"EXCELSUS," LONDON.

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GUIDE FOR SPECULATORS GRA 7s.

410	COMMANDS	21,000	STOCK.
420	COMMANDS	25,000	STOCK.
430	COMMANDS	25,000	STOCK.
450	COMMANDS	25,000	STOCK.
475	COMMANDS	21,000	STOCK.
4100	COMMANDS	21,000	STOCK.

What no further liability whatever.

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THE 1888

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EXTRAORDINARY PROPOSAL!!!

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For the ninth consecutive winter season we (the undersigned) have a wonderful proposal to make by which every applicant may secure

A WRITING CASE, A SCRAP ALBUM

and other useful articles, including a packet of beautiful

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S CARDS

on carrying out the conditions named below.

GUARANTEED GENUINE. SEND AT ONCE. DON'T DELAY.

Every Reader is therefore invited to send within Fourteen Days from the issue of this Paper for one of the beautiful

CHRISTMAS ART PARCELS.

The extraordinary contents of this year's Parcels, will, it is hoped, prove a real and unprecedented surprise, for they will be found to surpass all parcels of the past eight years. In the point of quality and value. The complete Parcel will be forwarded free by Parcel Post to any address in the United Kingdom on receipt of Post Office Order for 1s. 10d. or 1s. 6d. and it must be thoroughly understood that every Parcel will positively contain the WHOLE of the following useful goods, which it is sincerely hoped will be an astonishing surprise to every applicant.

A USEFUL WRITING CASE.

This writing case is fitted with blotting paper and receptacles for paper and envelopes or letters, and when closed measures about 16in. by 8in. The design on the front cover is a pretty illuminated Floral Group of Variegated Ivy and Dug Rose, finished by a new process; the shading of the leaves of the Ivy being, as near as possible, true to nature. Also

A PRETTY SCRAP ALBUM,

Measuring about 12in. by 10in.

The front cover of this album bears a beautiful artistic design, nicely illuminated in gold or other colours. Each album contains not less than twenty-two pages, and may be used for the insertion of the beautifully coloured Embossed Relief Scenes and other Works of Art contained in this parcel, or, if preferred, the album may be used for the insertion of interesting newspaper cuttings, &c., &c. The album also contains the usual "guards," so that additional leaves can be added if desired.

But in addition to the above Writing Case and Scrap Album, each Parcel will also contain

A BEAUTIFUL ASSORTMENT OF BIRTHDAY, CHRISTMAS, AND NEW YEAR'S CARDS.

Containing some choice artistic productions from Original Designs by clever artists, and appropriate to each season, composed by really talented Writers. The excellence of these lovely Cards will, it is believed, give universal satisfaction. Also a charming packet of beautifully coloured

EMBOSSD RELIEF SCRAP.

Consisting of Artistic Designs in Flowers, Fruit, Ferns, Figures, Animals, &c., suitable for boxes or Albums.

Also A CHARMINGLY ILLUMINATED PAIR OF BEAUTIFUL SCRIPTURE TEXTS OR SEASONABLE MOTTOES.

Especially suitable for Wall Decoration or Framing, the Floral Designs and Artistic Work being really exquisite. Also

A PAIR OF VERY PRETTY EMBOSSD RELIEF COLOURED PICTURES.

REPRESENTING "BALMORAL CASTLE, SCOTLAND," AND "THE ROYAL EXCHANGE, LONDON,"

Or Two other Subjects of Equal Interest.

As before stated, the Complete Parcel, containing the WHOLE of the goods mentioned above, will be sent free by Parcel Post to any address in the United Kingdom on receipt of Post Office Order for 1s. 10d. or 1s. 6d. and it must be thoroughly understood that every Parcel will positively contain the WHOLE of the goods described above, and for which I enclose herewith F.O.D. (free postage) should the Parcel not give full and entire satisfaction.

It is respectfully requested that application be made for this beautiful Christmas Art Parcel within 14 days from the issue of this paper, and that the remittance be accompanied by the following cutting:—

"PEOPLE." December 2nd, 1888.

(APPLICATION IS REQUESTED BEFORE DECEMBER 15th.)

I, the undersigned, beg to make application for one

CHRISTMAS ART PARCEL

containing the WHOLE of the goods described above, and for which I enclose herewith F.O.D. (free postage) should the Parcel not give full and entire satisfaction.

Signature.....

Address in full.....

About a quarter of a million various Parcels of our goods have been supplied throughout the world since 1870, and some thousands of unsolicited testimonials and repeat orders have been received in return.

This year's Parcel is the most wonderful value ever offered, the quality being unsurpassed.

Orders from abroad should be accompanied by 1s. extra. Post Office Orders should be made payable at the High-street Post Office, Rotherhithe Hill, to WALTER HENRY BACON.

All communications should be plainly and fully addressed—

WALTER H. BACON,

THE KENSINGTON FINE ART EMPORIUM,

THE MALL, KENSINGTON, LONDON, W.

THE HOLBORN ELECTION.

Result of the Poll.

Polling for the election of a member of Parliament for the Holborn Division of Finsbury, in succession to the late Colonel Duncan (C.), took place on Thursday, and was carried on to the close amid considerable excitement. Both candidates and their supporters worked hard throughout the day, and the district was a scene of considerable animation when the numerous vehicles conveying voters to the poll, the profuse display of electing literature, the crowds which assembled at various points to cheer the candidates as they passed, and the universal air of bustle and excitement. However, despite all this, good temper prevailed generally, and the day passed off without any incident of importance. The Liberal Unionist committee-rooms in New Oxford-street sent out a number of ladies and gentlemen to assist in bringing voters to the poll, including Mrs. Fawcett, Viscountess Lynton, M.P., Sir Julian Goldwin, M.P., Mr. R. Chamberlain, M.P., and others. The Separatist candidates were also assisted by several members of Parliament. All kinds of vehicles were pressed into the service, and even a covered furniture van, with forms placed inside, was not the least useful in bringing up Unionist voters. Amongst those who lent carriages to the Unionist candidate were the Duke of Norfolk, the Duke of Portland, Lady Haysbury, Mr. Thrupp, Sir J. C. Lawrence, Sir W. Lawrence, Mr. Gathorne Hardy, M.P., Mr. Godson, M.P., Mr. Seager Hunt, M.P., the Duke of Wellington, Lord Longford, Lord Londesborough, General Goldsworthy, Mrs. Aird, and Mrs. Bishopshelm.

As the time drew near for the closing of the polling booths there was considerable bustle among the members of the two committees to bring in the stragglers, but at eight o'clock, when the ballot boxes were sealed down, all the voters who intended to do so apparently had registered their votes. A large and noisy crowd had congregated outside the Holborn Town Hall to watch the arrival of the "growlers" containing the black tin ballot boxes, the last of which was deposited in the large hall shortly after 8.30. Then the members of the committee made the declaration of secrecy, the doors of the hall were locked, and the counting commenced at nine o'clock. As the night wore on a strong force of police had to be requisitioned to keep order among the concourse of spectators who awaited the result of the poll, which was declared at twenty minutes past eleven as follows:—

Mr. Gainsford Bruce (C.) ... 4,378
Col. Harrison (L.) ... 3,433

Majority ... 945

By the time the declaration was made a very large crowd had gathered in the neighbourhood of Holborn Town Hall, and a good deal of what is known as "horse play" had for some time been going on, the rowdy element, apparently favouring the Separatist candidate, being rather strong. The result was received with loud cheers by the friends and supporters of Unionism, and the Gladstonian crowd equally groaned and jeered. For some time there was considerable confusion, but eventually the crowd dispersed. Previous to this Mr. Gainsford Bruce came forward and addressed a few words of thanks to those who had so gallantly supported him. His appearance was the signal for loud and continued cheering from his friends, and groans from the defeated malcontents.

The following are the figures for the two previous elections:—

1885. Col. Duncan (C.) ... 4,047
Col. Harrison (L.) ... 2,473

Majority ... 1,574

1886. Col. Duncan (C.) ... 3,851
Col. Harrison (L.) ... 1,930

Majority ... 1,915

The New Member for Holborn.



Mr. Gainsford Bruce, O.C., is the eldest son of Mr. John Collingwood Bruce, D.O.L., of Newcastle-on-Tyne, and was born in 1854. He was entered in 1886 as a student at the Middle Temple, where he was called to the bar in June, 1889. He acted for some years as a law reporter for the Incorporated Council, and also went the Northern Circuit, where he was Recorder of Bradford since 1877, and Solicitor-General of the County Palatine of Durham since 1873. He is joint author of a standard treatise on "The Law of Merchant Shipping," and has been since 1885 a member of the Bar Committee. He now enters Parliament for the first time, though he contested the borough of Gateshead in 1880 and Newcastle-on-Tyne (against Mr. John Morley) in 1884, and more recently the Tyne-side Division of Northumberland against Mr. Albert Grey in 1885, and Barrow-in-Furness against Mr. Cairne, at a by-election in April, 1888. He married, in 1888, Sophia, daughter of Mr. Francis Jackson, of Court, Surrey. Mr. Bruce will be the sixty-first new member who will have taken his seat in St. Stephen's since the last general election. His return on the present occasion leaves the political representation of this division of Finsbury unchanged.

LORD CROSS AT GOOLE.

On Thursday Lord St. Oswald opened a Conservative club at Goole, and in the evening Lord Cross, Secretary of State for India, spoke on political questions. Referring to the Land Purchase Bill, Lord Cross said it was a measure for the relief of Irish tenants, which was opposed by Mr. Gladstone, who acted the part in regard to it of the old gentleman at the play. Having had the party took up the opposition; but, in spite of that, they would pass the bill. The repetition of speeches indulged in by certain members of Parliament had a damaging effect on the representative institutions, which were at present on their trial.

EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY—AN INTERESTING POINT.

In the Queen's Bench on Thursday, the East Surrey Ironworks Company appealed against a decision of the county court judge sitting at Croydon, who gave a boy named Corcoran £75 as compensation under the Employers' Liability Act for personal injuries received. The accident occurred through the imperfect working of a station on a trolley, and the contention for the plaintiff was that the defendants ought to have seen that the station was properly packed. Their lordships no held that there was no case whatever for the plaintiff, and that it would be carrying the Employers' Liability Act to an absurdity to hold employers to be liable under such circumstances. The appeal was therefore allowed, the decision of the court below being reversed.

How to Reach Greenwich.—See "How to Reach." By H. M. D. All the Stations. Figures of the New Waters and the River. London, 1888. Price 1d. All Newsagents. Post free. Ready bound pocket edition, 6d. (Advs.)

MYSTERIOUS AND ATROCIOUS MURDER OF A BOY.

An atrocious murder was committed on Monday evening at Havant, the details of which will be apparent from the evidence given at the inquest and the subsequent proceedings. The inquest was opened on Wednesday. Robert Searle said the body was that of his son, who was a quiet, inoffensive lad. He last saw him alive at dinner-time on Monday, when he was in his usual health. He next saw him at a quarter to seven the same evening, lying dead on the ground at Mill-lane. He never knew that the child had ever quarrelled with his companions. He did not know that any one had a spite against himself. Mr. Bond said he found the deceased in a semi-supine position in the place described. The boy was quite dead, and was in a pool of blood. There were three wounds in the throat, the only severe one being a punctured wound on the right lower jaw, which penetrated a blood vessel in the neck, causing death. The murderer failed, through the bluntness of his knife, to cut the throat, and then dashed the end of the knife into the boy's neck. The knife caused four or five wounds, but the injuries were not self-inflicted.

Clearing up the Mystery.

John Platt said as he was coming down the Pallant on Monday evening, about a quarter past six o'clock, he saw a lad named Husband, aged 11, telling two persons of the murder. On seeing witness, Husband ran to him and said, "There's some one murdering a little boy up here!" pointing to the Pallant. Witness took his hand, and they went together. Witness took his hand, still alive, and lifted his head. The boy had three breaths and expired. Witness asked Husband where he had seen any one, and he replied, "Yes; a tall man ran across the fair field." Witness neither saw nor heard any one, although he came from that direction. There had, apparently, been a severe struggle. The deceased was covered with mud and blood. He was a little taller than Husband. Witness told Husband to fetch a sergeant of police, but he went home without doing so, and witness went to Husband's house and asked for him. Husband then washed his hands, and was wiping them with a towel. Witness did not see the water, nor did he notice any mud on Husband's clothes. His boots were very dirty. By a jurymen: It was utterly impossible for Husband to see what took place where the body was lying from the place where he said he stood. If he had stood in the middle of the road even he could not in the dark night have seen witness, and could not see seven yards ahead of him. Sergeant Knapton, of the Havant constabulary, called to the scene of the murder. Husband told him that he saw a tall man cutting a boy's throat. Witness searched, but found no knife. The knife was subsequently found by Mr. Spurgeon. Witness had since, in company with Sergeant Knapton, seen Husband. He repeated his statements. The inquest was adjourned.

Arrest of the Boy Husband.

At half-past two o'clock on Wednesday afternoon the boy Husband was arrested at his father's house. Being charged with the crime, he said, "I never did it." He was taken to the police station, and upon examining his clothes several spots of blood were found at the back of his right wristband. The lad accounted for this by a cut which he had received on his hand while at work. The knife had been identified by several persons. It originally belonged to a boy named Stevens, in the employ of Messrs. Searle and Sons. Stevens gave it to Husband's elder brother, who, on November 24th, endeavoured to sell it, and eventually lost it.

Police Proceedings.

At a special meeting of county magistrates, held at Havant on Thursday, Robert Husband, aged 11 years, was charged with the wilful murder of Percy Knight Searle, aged 8 years, on Monday evening last. The court was crowded. The prisoner, who is a bright-looking little fellow, was perfectly cool when the charge was read to him. Sergeant Knapton, of the Havant constabulary, stationed at Havant, repeated the evidence he gave at the inquiry on Wednesday, adding that he visited the prisoner on Wednesday morning, and found spots of blood on the outside of the right shirt sleeve, and several spots inside the shirt (produced). He then took him into custody. The prisoner cried when the charge was read over to him. The witness took the scarf (produced) from the prisoner's neck, and on it were marks which he believed to be bloodstains. The father of the prisoner, who was allowed to ask questions on behalf of his son, showed great emotion, and proceeded to make a statement, which was objected to. The sergeant, continuing, said he tested the boy's statement as to seeing the murder, but found it impossible to see a person from the spot where the prisoner alleged he stood. Robert Shirley deposed that the deceased purchased some shirting from him just before six o'clock on Monday evening. About a quarter of an hour afterwards he was standing near the shop door when he saw the prisoner running in the direction of his home. He said, "There's a man killing a boy up there." The witness was unable to leave the shop himself, but told a neighbour, John Platt, that he was coming round the Pallant on Monday evening at 6.30 p.m., but saw nor heard any one until he met the prisoner, who said, "There's a man killing a little boy up under the wall." They went together, but about ten yards from the wall he stopped short, pointing at the spot. I could see nothing whatever. I had a lantern. On nearing the wall I found the body of the deceased. I told Husband to fetch the police, and he ran off. I subsequently went to the prisoner's house to fetch him, and found him with his hands wet wiping them on a towel. David Spurgeon, states that he found the knife landed at the inquest at nine o'clock on Monday evening, about eight yards from the spot where the murder was committed. Henry Wheeler, an errand boy, said he saw the prisoner at about eleven o'clock on Monday night. The prisoner said, "Will you give me a penny for this knife." This was the knife now produced in court. (Sensation.) The witness told him he did not want the knife. George Husband, brother of the prisoner, identified the knife as belonging to himself. He missed it on Sunday evening when out for a walk. He usually carried it in his jacket pocket, and on Sunday he changed it from his every day clothes to his Sunday clothes. He did not see it after Sunday until it was shown to him by Sergeant Knapton. William Thomas Stevens, employed at the railway book-stall at Havant, said he gave the knife produced at George Husband on November 22nd. He recognised it by the large blade being loose and worn and the small one broken. Albert Thomas Farrell identified the knife, and said he saw the prisoner with it about Wednesday or Thursday last week, when he wanted to sell it for a penny. Stevens called it a "cut-throat" knife. The prisoner was remanded till Wednesday next. He showed no emotion during the hearing of the case, but became paler as the evidence was adduced respecting his possession of the knife.

At Marlborough-street Police Court, Thomas Eaglestone, a labourer, was committed for trial on a charge of wilfully breaking a plate glass window, of the value of £75, the property of Mr. Eugene Ascherberg, music publisher, of Regent-street. Prisoner kicked at the window, and when taken into custody said he did it in order to be locked up.

Mr. Gould, E.P., of Bradford, is giving the Mop Pressing.

For Bitters to all applicants who send a stamp for postage.

The testimony attending the use of this simple and effective remedy is a history of medicine. It is a choice, rare, and valuable remedy for the majority of ailments to which humanity is afflicted, and as the same can be taken in any form, it is a valuable remedy for all ailments.

To write must direct their letters above. Read safe. (Advs.)

TRIPLE MURDER AND SUICIDE.

A fearful tragedy is reported from Botley, a village between Newcastle-under-Lyme and Crewe, where a pointsman named James Jervis, in the employ of the London and North-Western Railway Company, murdered his wife and two children and took his own life. Jervis, who was 33 years of age, was the son of a small farmer at Oaken, near Crewe, and his wife, who was a native of Botley, was two years older. Since their marriage they resided in a small semi-detached cottage in the village, and seemed in fairly comfortable circumstances. Jervis, who was a very steady and temperate man, was last seen outside his dwelling on the night of November 25th when he fetched some ale from an adjacent inn for the family supper. He was then quite sober, and did not appear to be upset in any way. From what can be gathered from the two surviving children, it appears that their father rose at his usual early hour in the morning, and lit his lamp preparatory to starting for work, but he changed his mind and returned to the bed-room. Shortly afterwards the eldest girl heard her mother scream out, "Don't, Jim, I've done nothing." About six o'clock Mrs. Jervis ran up against a stone wall which was on his way to work. The morning was dark and wet, but he could see that she was covered with blood. She ran across the road to her mother's cottage, knocked down the door, but when she entered she found her mother lying on the floor, and died almost immediately from loss of blood. An alarm having been raised, the neighbours entered Jervis's house and there found the youngest child, a girl of about 15 months, and a boy of 4 years, dead from wounds in the throat. Two other children had escaped, after having been seized by their father, by running out at the back door. Jervis himself was found by the bedside with his throat cut. He had made a desperate attempt on his life, but he was grasping a large table-knife in his hand, and when the knife was plunged into his throat, and so determined had been his attack that the weapon was bent almost double. The room presented a sickening spectacle, being almost deluged with blood. The head of the youngest child was almost severed from the body, and the boy had his throat cut in a similar dreadful manner. The man was still alive, and medical assistance was immediately sent for, but he died about one o'clock. Though in a terrible condition and unable to speak coherently, Jervis intimated before his death that he intended to kill himself, and that he had intended to kill his wife and children. The vicar of the parish was with him at the last, but, although he confessed his crime, he would not state the motive which led him to commit it. On this point there is considerable speculation and difference of opinion, some of the neighbours stating that the husband and wife appeared to have lived together on friendly terms, while others state that there was some unhappiness. A neighbour who is an invalid, and unable to leave his room, if he had the opportunity, would state that he heard quarrelling about half-past five a.m. There is a suggestion that jealousy was the motive which prompted the unhappy man to the dreadful deed.

Inquest on the Bodies.

The coroner for North Staffordshire held an inquest on Wednesday as to the death of the victims. The jury visited the house at Botley, where the four bodies lay—James and Sarah Ann Jervis, husband and wife, aged 33 and 37 respectively, and their two children, aged 4 and 15 months. Evidence of the discovery of the crime was given by James Malpas and Edward Ralph, neighbours of the deceased. Malpas said he was going to his work at half-past six on Monday morning, when he saw Mrs. Jervis and her daughter Edith rushing across the road to a neighbour's house. The mother returned into the roadway and fell against witness. He spoke to her. Without replying she went inside Ralph's house. They attended to her on the sofa, and found her throat cut. She did not speak, but motioned as if she desired them to go to her house, and almost immediately died. They went to her house. They met one of the children running out. A railway lamp was burning on the stairs. They found Jervis in his bed-room, between the bed and the wall. He had got a knife in his throat. He moved round to escape their notice. They went to him and laid him on the bed. The child Mabel was then lying dead in the same bed. In an adjoining room they found Harry Jervis, dead, on the floor. A table-knife was found at the foot of the staircase.

Evidence of the Surviving Children.

Edith Jervis, aged 11, the eldest of the children, stated that on Sunday night, shortly after returning home from church, they went to bed, leaving their parents downstairs. They lived comfortably together. Witness was awakened next morning by her mother's screams, and peeping into their bed-room, she saw her father, who was sitting up in bed, on his knees, kneeling upon her mother, and at once recognised, kneeling upon her mother, who exclaimed, "Oh, Jim, don't! I have done nothing!" Witness ran out of the house, terrified, and was followed by her mother, Ernest Jervis, who slept with Harry, said his father went downstairs after their mother and Edith had gone out, and looked the door. He returned upstairs, and came into their bed-room. His face appeared to have been blackened, and they did not then know him. He had a knife under his arm. They were terrified, and screamed, and he said, "I have done nothing!" They pulled tightly round them. The father tried to pull the clothes away. He then went to Harry's side, and witness escaped, together with a sister who had come into the room.

Jervis's Dying Statement.

Dr. Arthur, who attended Jervis, said that when he saw him on the morning of the shocking occurrence his features seemed so darkened and changed that witness did not know him. Jervis struggled to keep the knife in his throat. He spoke for his wife, and, being unable to speak immediately after, made motions which witness understood to mean that he wanted to know how many were dead. He also made a sign that he wanted to write. Witness got some paper and pencil, and Jervis wrote, "I did it myself. There's no one else." He was too weak to finish the sentence intelligibly, which witness thought he intended to be "There's no one else." He was able to sign his initials to the note. Dr. Bailey said he had attended the deceased man for some time for a number of years. Some months ago he came to witness, and appeared very depressed, saying that he should not get better. Witness, however, encouraged him, and told him he would soon be all right. About a fortnight ago the deceased again saw witness, and said he thought he should not get well. He was not suffering from any dangerous complaint, but his continued depression would render him liable to break out into mania. The jury found a verdict of wilful murder against James Jervis in the case of his wife and two children. They further found he had committed suicide while in an unsound state of mind.

At Marylebone Police Court two charges of burglary and attempted burglary at Maids Vale and Regent's Park were heard on Wednesday. In the one case four men were committed for trial at the Middlesex Sessions, and in the other case the prisoner was remanded for inquiries. In the Maids Vale case three of the men were State notorious burglars, and had suffered various terms of imprisonment.

"Electric and Pencil Fine Treatment." Every man and woman suffering from gout, rheumatism, sciatica, indigestion, nervousness, epilepsy, liver complaint, and all other ailments, should send for one of Johnson's Pencil Fine Treatment Balm, which contains the well-known remedy of a French Voltaire Balm of nature, and is the best of all remedies for all ailments.

Mr. W. G. Johnson, Medical Electric Balm, and Battery Co. (Limited), 55, New Bond-street, London, W. (Advs.)

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Though every care will be taken to ensure the accuracy of replies, the editor cannot accept any responsibility for accidental errors. Questions requiring to be answered at the latest possible moment, should be sent to the editor by the latest post. The return of any M.S. is desired if it must be sent, as it will be returned, and the editor will be able to return it to the sender. Contributions must be sent to the editor, and the amount being either specified or left to the editor to fix.

Victim.—There is no fixed sum. Unless the parties can agree, they had better go before a magistrate and ask him to name the amount.

J. P. B.—We cannot undertake the invidious duty of criticising anonymous literary efforts.

A CORRUPT COCKNEY.—As the railway company resist the claim, it may be safely assumed that their solicitor believes they have a good case. We strongly recommend you, therefore, to consult a solicitor before entering into legal warfare with a wealthy corporation. You would have a very poor chance without legal assistance.

J. O. SELLARS.—Many thanks for the offer, but we are fully occupied.

G. T.—We are not acquainted with any work of the character. You can get most of the more important places in any good newspaper directory.

F. H. H.—The rules of the limited liability bill, its exact status is only known to the management. It has a dubious reputation.

PENITENTIAL.—It is illegal.

ONE MAN'S LAW.—The right of inheritance would depend upon the description of the property, whether real or personal estate. 2. Any property made over to the wife in settlement at the time of marriage would come to her with or without a special testamentary bequest. Property not specifically included in the settlement would be available for the payment of debts and claims under the will.

THE REAL ESTATE GOES TO THE HEIR-AT-LAW; the personal is divisible between the next-of-kin.

VINCENT.—After a certain length of service and on making a formal statement that his private income is not sufficient to maintain his position, an ex-Cabinet Minister is entitled to a pension.

A. G.—We have never heard of the bequest.

ONE IN NEED.—Take it to a dealer. Its value is small.

T. B. LESTER.—Declined with thanks. Fools cannot be saved from the results of their folly.

BARNES.—A month's wages only.

ONE IN TROUBLE.—Yes; again and again until the debt is liquidated. And you may consider yourself lucky to have escaped a prosecution for fraudulent misrepresentation.

CYCLIST.—If the rooms were let by the week, you are entitled to a week's rent in lieu of notice.

HAIRDRESSER.—We cannot say what view a county court judge would take, but on the face of it your claim appears valid.

M. J. P.—All the property you have acquired since the 1st January, 1883, is protected from your husband. He has a right, however, to the custody of the children, and if unable to maintain them, he will be liable to contribute to his maintenance in the workhouse.

AN INTERESTED PARTY.—The children by both marriages share equally in the personal estate.

A DISTRESSED MOTHER.—As the agreement was made with the father of the child, and the mother was not a party to it, she is not bound by it. You have a good case against the employer, not only as regards his claim, but for breach of contract.

A. G.—It would be at various places. We do not know either the address or the secretary's name.

W. H. EDWARDS.—All classes, but chiefly the poorer. You can obtain a copy of the Act of any Parliamentary stationer.

A. G.—It would be at various places. We do not know either the address or the secretary's name.

DEVIL.—Look in the "London Directory," if not there, we cannot help you.

P. L.—Write again. The charge does not seem excessive; rather the contrary. It would not surprise us were the client to find himself indebted to the solicitor. Law is an expensive luxury.

POSTAL REMITTANCE.—As the letter of demand expressly stated that payment must be made at its address, your action in making the remittance through the post was entirely of your own option. You therefore remain responsible for the debt.

EMILY BRITTON.—She would be the Queen-Consort, not Queen of England.

CONSERVATIVE.—Place the affair in the hands of a solicitor.

A. S. SCHUBERT.—It is against our rule to recommend transactions.

OLD TIMES.—As six votes, of course.

OLD TIMES.—It is necessary for you to make a will, or the property would not go as you wish.

G. E. BENE.—You have no claim against him in law.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT.—You are not a county, but will be when the Local Government Bill comes into operation.

BALANCE.—Book clubs make their own rules. So far as we know, no book gives the information you require.

W. E. G.—We cannot understand your question. Volunteers do not pay the capitation grant; it is the State that does so.

ONE IN TROUBLE.—Perhaps some shop might buy the work. It is the only way to dispose of it.

C. P. S.—Do you have any property to provide a home for her? She cannot be compelled to pay for her maintenance elsewhere.

COACHMAN.—As there was not a regular engagement, either conditions or order, you have no claim.

A. DICKINSON.—The rose under glass is very accommodating as to temperature, but 45deg. to 50deg. will be suitable for winter for fire-heat, if the plants are required to flower. In the open air, the temperature may rise to 60deg. or higher, with advantage.

PICKLES.—Have heard of a little "confusion" blended with the mustard, but cannot say whether it would answer what you require.

FROM M.A.S.—You do not say what is the nature of the slight irritation of scalp you suffer from. If it is ringworm, it would need special treatment. Possibly the bluing of your hat may be coloured with one of the aniline dyes; it may be removed by washing with soap and water, and then using a more or less antiseptic lotion, the cure of which is obvious. Have a different lining put in the hat.

REVENUE.—Recipes likely to suit you were given in our issues of May 25th and June 10th.

G. H. S.—We would advise patience; or, if you wish for recipes see what we have said in issues of May 25th, June 10th, and July 1st. Any of these modified to your requirements may assist. The last, which is simplest, we have known to be applied with success, especially to lips and cheeks.

O. W. X.—We fear the material of the blind must have been rotted or injured in some way, probably from the water having lain on it. Such blinds often do go first at the hinges. Without seeing it, it would be impossible to suggest a remedy.

LOTIC.—Spirits of turpentine will not help you. To re-aid a gold frame is not easy. We have given directions for the process on our issue of July 1st.

CARVING.—In a damp room or during prolonged damp weather skins cured with alum and salt are liable to get as you describe. You might try powdered alum, rubbed into the flesh side of the skin with a piece of yellow soap. Allow the skin to dry for a day or two, leaving the alum on and rubbing it in with the soap each day. In some cases one night and two rubbings are been found sufficient. Then shake and rub off all the powder, and thoroughly rub the skin with a soft cloth, and then lay it flat and dry.

STYRENE.—A good rubbing of tallow night and morning, and when loosened pick out the core with the point of a knife. See also our issues of June 3rd and 10th.

E. L.—Chloral spirit, plenty to do, and abundant fresh air and exercise, are better than any preparation.

A. H.—Black, of course.

Mrs. Nones.—It would be a very ticklish matter, and might lead to serious trouble. Consult a solicitor.

FOURTEEN.—You are not a county, but will be when the Local Government Bill comes into operation.

W. H. BARNES.—You must leave at the expiry of the notice. We do not reply by post under any circumstances whatever.

R. E. T.—No.

G. H.—If he carries out his threat you can sue him for the value of the article.

F. G.—Declined with thanks; you are great credit.

HARRINGTON.—The case of the Italian Pellicioni was found guilty of the murder and was sentenced to be hung, but another Italian confessed that he committed the deed before the sentence was carried out. Pellicioni thereupon received three years' imprisonment.

BOX.—We have no knowledge of the concern.

NOT SARGENT.—It is quite impossible to say what value the shares may have hereafter. You had better put them by.

A. J. W. W.—A.—Forwarded to "Jack Allround," too late for this week.

LET TORY.—A person occupying his own freehold in a borough is only entitled to the borough vote. To be qualified for the county vote, he must possess freehold property elsewhere which he does not occupy.

E. B.—See them in the county court; you have a perfectly good case. Thanks for the butter-cakes and daisies; also for your good wishes and congratulations.

REAR CHURCH.—Write to some one living in the neighbourhood.

JOHN MORRIS.—Effingham Wilton, Royal Exchange, would be likely to have a work of the sort if it is to be obtained anywhere.

F. STRECHER.—The case is so full of intricacies that you had better consult a solicitor. The points you raise do not appear to be of very much consequence.

R. L.—The pantomimes last Christmas at the theatres you mention were the Grand, Whitefriars and the Old Swan, and at Covent Garden, "Jack and the Beanstalk."

DRAMA.—"It is Never Too Late to Mend" was first played at the Teatro Royal, Leeds, in 1846. It was first seen in London at the Princess's Theatre, on October 14th, 1860.

JANET.—An unprincipled and unscrupulous quality of mind, and a lack of principle, are the two main faults of a person in a position of trust. This amount may be made up of several sums.

GAUCER.—The new landlord can demand the rent. If a

removal be made fraudulently to avoid payment of rent due the landlord can follow the goods within thirty days.

O. E. L.—You do not say on what terms your husband held the land, but we doubt whether you can sue for the rent.

W. H. BARNES.—The fees chargeable are set out fully in the second appendix to the rules under the Law of Distress Amendment Act, 1858. They are too long to be given here.

BOBO.—It is too late for registration this year. Apply to your local Conservative association.

SIR CHARLES WARREN'S SUCCESSOR.

The New Commissioner of Police.

It is announced that the Queen has approved the appointment, as reported in last Sunday's People, of Mr. Monro, C.B., as chief commissioner of police, in succession to Sir Charles Warren, resigned.

Mr. Monro was appointed to her Majesty's Bengal Civil Service in 1857, for the course of his Indian service Mr. Monro held both judicial and executive appointments, filling the posts of magistrate and collector, secretary to the Board of Revenue, district and sessions judge. Subsequently he became inspector-general of police in Bengal, that force numbering upwards of 20,000 men, under European officers, until, five years afterwards, he was appointed commissioner of the Presidency Division.

On several occasions, Mr. Monro received the thanks of the Government for his services. In 1884 Mr. Monro retired from the Bengal service on being appointed by Sir William Harcourt—then Home Secretary—to succeed Mr. Howard Vincent as Director of Criminal Investigations. Mr. Monro was made C.B. in the present year, and resigned his office of assistant-commissioner of metropolitan police in the summer.

In consequence of differences of opinion with Sir Charles Warren upon questions of police administration, but an arrangement was made whereby the Home Secretary could have the benefit of his continued advice upon questions relating to the investigation of crime. During his stay in Scotland Yard Mr. Monro was very popular with the force. While necessarily exacting as a disciplinarian, he was always courteous and considerate to the men. He had the sole control of the arrangements of her Majesty during the procession to Westminster Abbey, and of other celebrations.

Mr. Monro is married to a daughter of the late Mr. William Littlejohn, banker, Aberdeen.

THE SOUTH LONDON

TO LET.
THE IMPROVED INDUSTRIAL
DWELLINGS COMPANY, LIMITED.

Have a universal reputation for
SIMPLICITY AND EFFICIENCY.
C. DAVIS AND CO.'S

BAKER'S PATENT BOX MANGLE

AMERICAN ORGANS **99**
All kinds of Musical Instruments kept in stock, and
had on easy payments.
PRICE LIST POST FREE.

the Best Doors, Mouldings, Glass, Paints, Slates, and Floorings.
Prices sent on application.

other timber in various sizes.
Price Lists on application.
GEORGE LOVEDAY AND SON
219, Cambridge-road, E.; and 179, Romen-road,
All permanent plants at 219, Cambridge-road, Belin-
London, E.

"THE BLOOD IS THE LIFE."

CLARKE'S
WORLD-FAMED
BLOOD MIXTURE,
THE GREAT BLOOD PURIFIER
AND RESTORER.

CLEANSE AND CLEARING THE BLOOD FROM ALL
FURTHER, it cannot be too highly recommended.
Scrophula, Scoury, Eczema, Skin and Blood Diseases,
and all kinds it is a never-failing and permanent Cure.
Cures Old Sores.
Cures Sores on the Neck.
Cures Sore Legs.
Cures Pimples on the Face.
Cures Scoury.
Cures Eczema.
Cures Ulcers.
Cures Blood and Skin Diseases.
Cures Glandular Swellings.
Clears the Blood from all Impure Matter,
From whatever cause arising.
It is the only real specific for
Gout and Rheumatic Pain.
It removes the "acids" from the blood and bones.
Its mixture is pleasant to the taste, and warranted free
of anything injurious to the most delicate constitution of
the Infants; the Proprietors solemnly assures to give it a trial by
mail.

CLARKE'S
WORLD-FAMED
BLOOD MIXTURE.

"I feel duty bound to inform you of the wonderful
effects of Clarke's Blood Mixture on me. I have had
suffering over two years of a severe nature. I first
consulted the best medical aid I could possibly procure
for over six months, till my means were run out, and
with a sad heart I was compelled to come into the
workhouse hospital, where I now am. I had been in
here eighteen months, and my legs gradually got
worse. I began to think I would never get better,
till about five months ago I read in a copy of the 'Hull,
East Yorkshire, and Lincolnshire Times' of 'Clarke's
Blood Mixture,' and I determined that when I could
raise the means I would try it; so I commenced to
deprive myself of little necessities till at length I
raised eleven shillings. I got my sister to purchase me
a large bottle. She brought me one in on May 6th, and
to my surprise she brought me it. Oh, back, which
enabled me to purchase two small pots of your miraculous
salve. I commenced to use the Blood Mixture on
May 6th. I then had five wounds on the left leg, one
very large on the ankle bone, one on the shin, about the
size of half-a-crown, and three on the calf almost as
large. The right leg was somewhat similar, but there
were three sores which I thought would break into one,
but all are perfectly healed up now but one small pimple
on the left ankle about the size of a shilling. There
are fifteen put-outs in the ward that I am in, and they
were surprised to see my legs when I had taken the mix-
ture a week, and there are three of them now using it.
I am very sorry indeed that I cannot purchase another
bottle. You may judge for yourself how I am fixed,
after being in here eighteen months. My sister, Mrs.
Bulmer, lives at No. 24, Grimsby-lane, Market-place,
Hull, and if you would kindly send me a small quantity
of your mixture to the above address I should be able
to get it, and I shall never forget you as long as I
live.—Yours faithfully,
"No. 8 Ward,
Anlaby-road Workhouse Hospital, Hull,
June 12th, 1898."
LATER.

"I write to let you know how I am getting on. I received
the bottle of Mixture you sent me, and the wounds are
now completely healed up. I will be out of here in a few
days and get to work, which is already promised me. I
am going to see this of my sister's, Mrs. Bulmer. If you
will do me this case for the benefit of other
sufferers, do so. The result of your Mixture is really
wonderful.—I remain, your thankful servant,
"June 26th, 1898." "EDWARD STATHALA.

CLARKE'S
WORLD-FAMED
BLOOD MIXTURE.

"Chester, March 6th, 1898.
"I suffered from rheumatic pains in my arms and
legs for over five years. I also had a bruised shin
bone, through which I could rest only for a few minutes
at a time. All sorts of remedies were applied, but none
did any good for more than a few days. I was recom-
mended to try Clarke's Blood Mixture, which I did, and
on taking the first bottle I felt relief. I was told that
eleven bottles would effect a perfect cure. I only took
nine bottles and a half, which cost me 2s. 6d. per bottle.
"It is now ten months since, and I have not felt the
least pain—in fact, I am perfect in my walk, and am in
as good health as ever I was in my life.
"Moreover, I told two friends of mine, who were laid
up with rheumatic pains, of my cure, and they tried your
Clarke's Blood Mixture. They are tailors by trade, and
in seven days they were at work again, and they say it
cannot be too highly praised.— Hoping I am not
intruding, I remain, yours sincerely,
"Q. HOWARTH, Sergeant, Depot, Cheshire
Regiment, Chester."

CLARKE'S
WORLD-FAMED
BLOOD MIXTURE.

"I write to thank you for the great benefit I received
through taking Clarke's Blood Mixture. I was troubled
for about ten years with some terrible sores that I
could scarcely move about by day or rest by night, and
was continually taking medicine and using ointments
and lotion, but all to no purpose. I was in the in-
firmity about three months, and was advised to have
my arm off, but I would not consent. It seemed to be
a little better when I left this place, but broke out im-
mediately afterwards. It was then that I gave Clarke's
Blood Mixture the trial. After I had taken one bottle
(large) I was astonished at the change, for all the sores
were healing up and I felt better in health than I had
done for some years. But I took two more bottles,
which completely cured me.
"It was two years since I took those three bottles, and
there is not the least sign of the sores breaking out
again. The sensation, and I wrote before to thank you
that I wished to see if the cure was lasting or not,
and I am satisfied that it is.
"H. VINDELL.
"18, Moat-place, Stockwell Green, S.W., Oct. 10th,
1897."

T H O U S A N D S
O F
T E S T I M O N I A L S .

SKIN DISEASES, Eruptions, Blotches, Spots, Pimples,
Acne, Boils, Carbuncles, Ringworms, Sore Eyes, Erysipelas,
Scalds, Discoloration of the Skin, Humors, and Diseases of
Skin, of whatever name or nature, are literally carried out
the system in a short time by the use of this world-famed
medicine.

**IMPORTANT ADVICE TO ALL—Cleanse the vitiated
blood whenever you find its impurities bursting through the
skin in Pimples, Acne, and Sores; cleanse it when you
find it obstructed and sluggish in the veins; cleanse it when it
fouls—your feelings will tell you when. Keep your blood pure,
and the health of the system will follow.**

CLARKE'S BLOOD MIXTURE is sold in bottles at
5d. and 11s. each—sufficient to effect a permanent cure
the great majority of long-standing cases, by all Chemists
and Patent Medicine Vendors throughout the world, or sent to
any address on receipt of 3d or 11s stamps, by the Proprietors,
J. C. LINCOLN and W. D. LINCOLN, LINCOLN & LONDON DRUG
COMPANY, LINCOLN. (TRADE MARK, "BLOOD
MIXTURE.")

CAUTION—ASK FOR
CLARKE'S
WORLD-FAMED

THE GATESHEAD MURDER.
Sentence of Death.

William Waddle, 22, labourer, was charged Thursday, at the Durham Assizes, before Baron Colclough, with the murder of his sweetheart, Jane Hardmore, or Savage, on Birtley Falls, on the night of September 22nd. The girl's body was found on the Falls, near the spot where it is seen alive in company with a man beheaded for murder. She had been horribly mutilated. Suspicion fell upon the prisoner, who left the village of Birtley during the night, without giving notice of his intention. He walked twenty miles before the morning, and after being arrested about the border for a time, he was committed to a prison at Stenhouse, near Metheln. He had changed his clothes at Stenhouse, had three times given false names and addresses, and had also made two damaging statements to the police.—The jury found the prisoner guilty, and his lordship, in passing sentence of death, held that not the slightest doubt existed of his guilt. The prisoner admitted the utmost coldness from the outset, and walked firmly from his dock.

PERSONATING A DEAD WOMAN
She Wasn't the Wife at All.

at the Marine House on Friday, before Sir
Ansk, Catherine Irvine was charged on remand
with unlawfully obtaining £58 10s., and attempting
to obtain £41 10s., by means of false pre-
tences, with intent to defraud the Limited, and
the Steamship Cascadia, shared by the
warrant was given on the last day of the
Stokes, directors, of the late Stokes, Saunders
and Stokes, clerks, of 21, Great St. Helena,
to effect that his employers were agents to Messrs.
Watkinson, Bright, and Warr, of Liverpool, who
were solicitors for the prosecuting company.
On January 18th last there was a collision at
between the steamships Oxfordshire and Cas-
cadia, whereby a number of the crew of the
former vessel were drowned, and another crew
member was injured. It was held by the
Court of Appeal, that both vessels were to blame
for the collision, and actions were subsequently
brought under Lord Campbell's Act by
representatives of the deceased seamen
against the owners of the Cascadia by

compensation. Among the actions was in the name of Johanna Higgins for our infant children. Messrs. Stokes and

was instructed to settle this action for \$500, the taxed costs, on production of letters of administration and certificates of marriages and births. These certificates were subsequently produced, and Messrs. Stokes paid into court £250 0s 12d 10s. 8d. for costs. Further evidence being given by J. Roberts, managing clerk to Messrs. Pritchard and Sons, solicitors, of 9, Gracechurch-street, who showed that his firm was instructed by the prisoner, who represented herself as Johanna Higgins, to bring the action in question, which was done. In the course of documents she produced the certificates of documents referred to, and she submitted the £250 to Mr. Stokes. On the production of these it was agreed to settle the action. Payment of £250, and settlement they paid the prisoner of money. They afterwards found that the prisoner was not the person she represented herself to be. A widow named Bridget Hickey, residing in Poplar, said she knew Johanna Higgins from her childhood, and that she died in the year 1870. The prisoner lived with Higgins after her wife's death, and one of the children, in whose name the action was brought, was in 1875. J. Roberts was recalled on the last occasion, and stated that after the information he received he had an interview with the prisoner and taxed her with the fraud. She persisted, however, to say she was the wife of Maurice Higgins, and the mother of all the children. When the fact of marriage was first shown to her there was a great deal of weeping, and a piece of newspaper was placed on the back of the witness's chair, and she continued to weep there.

together, but after the fraud was discovered

paper was removed, and the entry of the death of Joseph in 1876 of Johanna Higgins was then found. Mr. Stokes was also recalled, and said that he had searched to ascertain if any marriage had taken place between Maurice Higgins and the priest since the death of Johanna Higgins, but no record could be found. There was only one legitimate child surviving of Maurice Higgins, the other having been born since the death of the mother, a lawful wife.

Davleer from the bite of a cat suffering from feline rabies.

THE MILDNESS OF THE SEASON
A dish of green peas, in first-rate condition, gathered by Mr. Jolliffe in his open garden, was sent down on Wednesday. There has been no action of frost this season, and primroses and violets are to be seen in many places in locality.

UNDERGRADUATE DEMONSTRATION AT OXFORD.
An undergraduate of New College, Oxford, sent down on Thursday by the University authorities in consequence of riots on dons and parties, which had appeared in an undergraduate paper for which he was held responsible, petition in his favour, signed by 250 members of his college, had no effect. On leaving the college, he had a large number of his fellow-students accompany him, and taking the horse from the vehicle drove triumph to the railway station.

AN IRISH BOARD OF GUARDIANS IN DEBT.
All the turf stored in the Clifden Union was seized on Wednesday night by a shrovet named Diamond, from Tuilly, and three barrels were placed in charge of it. It appears that Diamond decreed the guardians last June for a sum of £11, the balance of a bill due for turf supplied under the Relief of Distress Act, and other goods and chattels within the workhouse.

Diamond contends that the turf was sup-

DURING BURGLARY NEAR HEATFOG
During Wednesday night the residence of Captain Barry, at Dongoe, near Hertford, entered by burglars, who ransacked several rooms and carried off a large quantity of jewelry, and valuables. Entrance was obtained through a garden window. The thieves helped themselves to food and wine, and among some of Captain Barry's cigars. The family were asleep in the house at the time, were disturbed.

SUDDEN DEATH IN A RAILWAY CARRIAGE.

An inquest was held on Thursday at Chel-
 Wey's, on the body of Mr. Charles William
 Hays, aged 39, who carried on business as a chem-
 ical manufacturer in Mark-lane. He was seized
 with illness in a railway carriage of the
 Great Eastern line, while returning home
 from business, and died before the train reached
 home. Death was attributed to an affection of
 the heart.

The revolution in Hayti still continues
 attempts to bring about a reconciliation on be-
 tween the Government and insurgents having pro-
 vided unsuccessful. The island is, however, in
 quiet.

Great rejoicings have been caused through-
 out Florida by the occurrence of sharp frosts, for
 thought the colder temperature will arrest the
 spread of the yellow fever.

The Rev. Obadiah Bates, of the United States
 Navy, having sailed on the 1st of the month
 for the world, for the last time fixed the
 date of the world for November 30th, 1850, or 3
 months from this time.

Mr. H. Irving was entertained on Wednes-
 day afternoon at a public banquet at the Edg-
 mont Assembly Rooms, Birmingham. Mr. C.
 Mathews presided, and many leading mem-
 bers of the town were present.

A MOTHER TEACHING HER CHILD

TO STEAL.
At the Wandsworth Police Court on Wednesday Alice Harrison, whose age was given as 14, but who looked younger, was charged with stealing garments belonging to children; and her step-mother, Maria Harrison, living in Sterndale road, Battersea, who carried a child in her arms, was also charged with unlawfully receiving the same, knowing them to have been stolen. The

girl was first charged a fortnight ago, and she

been stated to the magistrate that she stole coats and jackets by direction of her step-mother, who pledged them. The mother, who was in court, called out, "Tell the truth, Alice," and the girl retorted out, "Tell the truth. You know your mother told me to steal the things." The mother was subsequently arrested, and at her lodgings were found forty-five pawnbrokers' duplicates, relating to coats and other articles of wearing apparel. On this occasion the back of the court appropriated for the use of the public, was crowded with women whose children, it was said, have been robbed of their clothing.—Several cases of receiving stolen property were gone into against the mother, and the evidence went to show that children, whose ages varied from 6 to 8 years, were robbed of their coats and jackets by their mother, their way to school. By direction of the magistrate, the girl was called into the witness-box and admitted robbing children at her step-mother. She admitted robbing children of their clothes, and said her mother told her to do it. She also stated that she stole jackets and coats from board schools while the children were engaged with their lessons.—The prisoner said that the girl asked her to be allowed to steal the things, but Mr. Curtis Bennett said he could not believe that.—The evidence of pawnbrokers having been given, Miss Curtis Bennett said it was the worst case which had come under his notice. The mother had educated her child to be a thief, and brought her in a systematic way to robbing, by pledging the things which she succeeded in stealing from the children of the poor. He committed her to prison for three separate terms of imprisonment—seven months in all—and remanded the girl to the workhouse with a view of sending her to an industrial school.—An application was made to the magistrate to compel the pawnbrokers to return the clothing to the owners.—The pawnbrokers having expressed their willingness to return the things, Mr. Curtis Bennett said that would be an end to the matter.

CALLING UP THE ARMY RESERVE.
 The War Office is making arrangements with a view to calling up the Army Reserve, now about 52,000 strong, for training during the ensuing year, and it is expected that the summons to join the colours will be issued with the reserve pay of April. It is understood that men who were embodied in 1885, men belonging to the city, county and borough police, convict and prison wardens and assistants in certified lunatic asylums will be exempted from attendance; and the Government will be allowed to choose between retaining with the home attractions, depôts, and Militia of the respective regiments.

HUNGARIAN TRADE IN HEBBIT SKINS.

THE TRADE IN RABBIT SKINS.
One of the most extraordinary of London trades

is in rabbit skins. Rabbits are one of the plagues of New Zealand and Australia, and the partial compensation of the colonists is this export. For New Zealand there have been sent out in about ten years seventy million skins, valued £750,000, and in the same period twenty-nine millions have been exported from Victoria. "Coney wool" is now worth 7s. a pound. The extensive supply has, it is said, flooded the English market, and the trade has on hand supply sufficient to last for a year or two. The cheap linings of winter coats and cloaks, and many of the dyed articles of fur, as well as mammal hats, are made of rabbit fur.

IRISH NATIONALIST INTIMIDATION

Mr. McLeod and Mr. Bodkin, resident magistrates, sat on Thursday in the County Court House, Wexford, and sentenced Edward Walsh, proprietor of the *Wexford Free Press*, to three months imprisonment in the county gaol, for a speech delivered at Scarrawalsh, which the Crown court intended was intended to intimidate Thomas Walker, who had evicted a tenant named Clinch.

EXTRAORDINARY ELECTRICAL STORM

Information has been received at Queenstown of the ship *Edward*, from Havre, with a cargo of iron ore, whose captain reported that the vessel encountered a terrible electrical storm in the Atlantic on the night of 31st October, when the latitude 41.42 N., longitude 54.42 W., lasting several hours. The vessel was continuously enveloped in lightning, which prostrated on the

deck eleven seamen, and deprived them of sight for nearly half a day. The second officer and t

boat-swain were also dashed to the deck, and received serious injury, and the former was speedless for five hours. Three balls of fire exploded with a tremendous report over the main rigging scattering flaming fragments over the ship and driving the vessel to the mercy of the cruel waves that entered the forecabin. From three a.m. until seven p.m. the captain and mate were the only persons on board capable of doing any work, as on them developed the task of keeping the vessel before the easterly gale. The captain states that all on board the ship were trembling with fear during the time that the electrical storm fastened its terrible grasp upon the vessel. The captain and he adds that no doubt the iron ore with which the Edward was laden acted as a magnet and attract the lightning.

THE THANET LIBERAL CLUB DISPUTED

In a divisional court of Queen's Bench on Wednesday, Sir Richard Wyatt and Mr. Bouvier, chairman and treasurer of the Thanet Liberal Club, appeared against a decision of the council.

court judge at Margate holding them personally liable for the payment of £45 to Mr. Poole.

secretary of the club, as a half-year's salary. It was said that Sir Richard Wyatt, finding that somebody else had been selected as the candidate for the Thanet Division, "put a stopper" on supplies, and Mr. Bouvrie refused to obey the resolution of the executive committee to pay the plaintiff's and other claims.—Their lordships held that the county court judge was wrong in holding the defendants personally liable. The plaintiff looked to the funds of the club for payment. Judgment was, therefore, ordered to be entered for the defendants, and leave to appeal was refused.

IRISH METHODS IN WALES.

The most determined resistance to the payment of tithes which has hitherto taken place in Wales occurred on Thursday, at Llanrhysted, the mountainous district of Carmarthenshire. A body of men acting for the vicar and Ecclesiastical Commissioners, and supported constabulary, attempted to collect tithes from sixteen farmers, who are two years in arrears. Those who resisted included four freeholders, a law student, and a county magistrate. The gates were barred and chained, footbridges and torrents removed, and every obstacle thrown in the way of the collectors. In one case a struggle occurred between the officers and the people before an entrance could be effected, stones being used and stones thrown. Where animals had been distrained upon they could not be found. It was the same with hay. Mr. Stevens, as the police official to read the Riot Act, declared that if he could not sell the stock on that day he would bring a regiment of soldiers to take it away. Ultimately nine of those who resisted paid the claims, but in three other cases a refusal was given, accompanied by a threat to resist to the utmost. Large amounts for tithes still due in various parts of the county.

The Maidstone magistrates have dismissed charges against a driver and two guards on the South-Eastern Railway of being on the licensed premises of Mr. Timothy Epps, Railway Hotel, Maidstone, at six minutes after twelve midnight on the 10th inst., on leaving their train after their return from London. Mr. Epps said he had been in the habit of serving the defendants and others under similar circumstances for twenty years.

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